THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. POPE.

No. 724.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN.

In the vocabulary of moralists and metaphysicians, truth is immutable. We deny the position, it is one thing in Parliament and another out of it; and that even in the sentiment and utterance of the same individuals. About three weeks ago, Country Gentlemen were making speeches all over the kingdom, upon the necessity of all possible economy, and an effective enquiry into the evils which afflict society at large, and themselves especially. They were no longer to be amused with do-nothing Committees, and empty promises; the disease must be sought after; the waters of the land be cast; and the nation be restored to sound and pristine health by a rejection of the "perilous stuff" which clogged its energies and vitality. Such was the language even of warm ministerialists. What is the case at present?—Conjured once more into the ministerial circle, Lord LONDONDERRY sets his eyes upon them, and in the glare of the brilliant convictions he heaps upon them, they hop towards him like small birds towards a rattle-snake. "O most lame and impotent conclusion!" and so much the more lame and impotent, as being unproduced by the slightest portion either of rational promise or performance. Suppose we briefly run through that unspeakable disclosure, which has produced such a paralysis among County Members, and restored them to their ancient privilege of sleeping quietly in the "Church Porch till two, and then to bed." We write contemptuously—we cannot do otherwise. For the weakness which *cannot* perceive there may be pity; for the want of principle which *will not* perceive, hatred or disgust; but the fatuity which can be sporting all sorts of alarming things one week, and act in direct contradiction the next, is only to be despised. For our own part, we begin to suspect that the Agricultural distress has been exaggerated; for if not so, by what have these landed *Illuminati* been appeased? Let us recapitulate.

In the first place, these sapient agricultural leaders are informed that the country cannot be unprosperous, because the consumption of excisable articles proves the contrary. This may be very pleasant to the other interests, but it may be worth while for the Agriculturist to ask, how much of this capability in other classes is directly the consequence of the distress of his own. No small portion of it, we strongly suspect, at least if *low prices* form a cause of increased consumption. To him, therefore, this congratulation is very cold comfort; and indeed to every one else who regards society as in a state of disease, when the prosperity of one great class is founded upon the depression of another. South-sea adventure has, no doubt, done much for manufacture and commerce, but we are quite satisfied that low prices have done more; and whether the effect of over-cultivation or not, the result is the same. We dispute the fact of over-cultivation; but if it be the case, so much the worse for the men of land, for it must cease to produce rent. In every point of view, therefore, the congratulation upon excise receipts is of little value to them. Are they better pleased with the logic connected with the recent distress of the manufacturers, now so happily relieved? As far as this relief is not at *their* expense, it has arisen from causes which were natural and obvious; namely, the growth of new activity and relations in the markets of the world. To what is the Agriculturist to look?—to a committee, a double average, and a 1s. per bushel in malt, we suppose—special sources of consolation, when connected with the assurance, that he must under-cultivate in order to restore things to an equilibrium. A pretty prospect to inspire hope! What cannot be remedied must be endured; and we strongly suspect that in respect to this interest, nothing but excessive taxation can be remedied; but this is waived in favour of what?—the Sinking Fund! Truly these gentlemen must have their own way, and let them. "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb;" and when such things as the speeches of a LONDONDERRY, and the reports of Agricultural Committees, are inflicted upon floundering landed men, we suppose they are constituted to endure it. Some people might solve the enigma by *Quos Jupiter vult perdere, prius dementat*, and certainly that hacknied adage seems exceedingly applicable.

After being congratulated on the prosperity of *every body* else, and assured that the repeal of taxation cannot possibly benefit persons who can scarcely pay their rent, also that the true remedy will be produced by the "fructification" of the "*laws of political economy*," and the reduction of arable into pasture, the docile Lords of Manors are instructed in the state of receipt and expenditure. According to *estimate*, the expence of the present year will be nearly 1,300,000*l.* lower than that of last year; by reductions chiefly in the Army and Navy, it would have been upwards of 1,900,000*l.*; but Greenwich Hospital some how or other requires 320,000*l.*; and Ireland,—conciliated, visited, and unhappy Ireland,—350,000*l.* to support the yeomanry in their attempts to restore Irish good government, and Orange social order. Great credit is claimed on this score. So intent are Ministers upon retrenchment, they absolutely disband regiments in a time of peace, and lay up ships in ordinary which are not wanted; and if they still retain sucking Lords of the Admiralty, and raise over and over again, Heaven knows why, the pay of *Parliamentary* Secretaries, they certainly cashier junior clerks without mercy. How can Mr. GOOCH avoid ecstasy, or Mr. STUART WORTLEY delight? And then this precious consequence is attached; there will be a real surplus of 5,200,000*l.* for a Sinking Fund. And here Lord LONDONDERRY became absolutely pathetic. The Sinking Fund was the proud work of the great man "now no more." Would they lay sacrilegious hands upon his darling work, and, moreover, break faith with the Public Creditor, by a reduction of taxation, which would affect the utility of so precious an invention? It is trite to quote what is often quoted, but SHAFTESBURY is right; gravity is of the essence of importance, otherwise it would be impossible for the member of an administration, which had diverted this fund from its ostensible object for

some years past thus to expatiate: Cicero wondered how one Soothsayer could look into the face of another without laughing. How inexpressibly rich at this moment must have been an exchange of glances between the Noble Lord and Mr. Vansittart. This Sinking Fund, to be sure, is the *ne plus ultra* of absurdity, as forming the subject of panegyric to any one, but, addressed to Country Gentlemen, it absolutely amounts to insult. We need not inform our readers, that this boasted scheme has been a delusion from first to last, that it has never actually redeemed above thirteen or fourteen millions in the whole, and that all the rest of the nominal redemption was by money borrowed at a higher interest than the interest redeemed, that is to say, by a gift to the money-jobbers of the difference. The famous South Sea bubble was not more despicable than this operation, during the whole of the late war. And we have had occasion more than once to say that which we now repeat, that the boasted scheme of setting aside one million out of twenty to accumulate in order to pay off the whole twenty, was the most extraordinary experiment upon public credulity that ever was attempted; and to praise it at this time of day, requires the most surprising powers of face. The sole result and intention was to levy taxes for the interest of twenty millions, when nineteen only were wanted; and, as we have already observed, to serve the jobber. The nonsense which was then spouted about accumulation by compound interest, was equally astounding; and the simplicity of the people in expecting gain from an operation in which they furnished all the interest themselves, can never be sufficiently admired. Even now, Lord Londonderry ventures to talk of the half million upon which the oppugners of the present dwarf Sinking Fund would lay their *suicidal* hands, as if it were generated out of nothing, or any thing else but a portion of over-taxation upon the people. The manner in which it was put by the Noble Lord, is, indeed, unspeakably ridiculous. Thus he hopes next Session to take off another million of taxation by reductions for Ireland, Greenwich Hospital, and from—what else think you, gentle reader? —the accumulation of the Sinking Fund. In a word, the people are to pay interest on this exquisite piece of cajolery this year, in order to have it taken off the next; for nothing accumulates but by their payment. We repeat again and again, never was more broad-faced delusion practised in any country; and if making a fool of the Debtor be keeping faith with the Creditor, never was faith better kept.

A few words more upon this bubble termed the Sinking Fund. Whatever it may be to the Jobber and Fundholder, to the Country Gentleman it is nothing but a miserable scheme for ultra taxation. The simple honest application of all available surplus in redemption, without trick or machinery, is all that can serve them, or indeed any one else, but those interested in the bargain and sale of stock. It secures a low rate of interest by raising the funds, says Mr. Peel; Mr. Ricardo denies this; but suppose the fact be so, is it wise to pay high taxation to secure the possibility of borrowing at a low interest, even supposing capital could not march to other countries and to foreign funds? We have said that a Sinking Fund upon the Pitt plan could only benefit dealers in the funds. We beg pardon, it must necessarily be a favourite scheme with all ministers, by increasing their facilities of loan, and consequently of profusion and waste; and thereby adding an evil to the existing system, which is not absolutely necessary to it. It aided, for instance, in covering the profligate expenditure of the Pitt *hey-day*, by its covert premium to the lender. National faith and public credit, indeed! As far as the over-burthened people of this country can create a surplus, let them do so; but not on pleas or on principles like these. The invoking the manes and memory of Mr. Pitt in defence of this nonentity is in character; it is visionary altogether in its pretensions; even granting there should be a surplus of 5½ millions, as stated (upon estimate, mind, good reader, *only* upon estimate,) which we do not believe; and for this plain reason, that in no single instance have such promises ever been fulfilled. Moreover, we strongly suspect that Ireland will prove an impediment, to say nothing of a Turkish and Russian war. Without speaking of what he calls accumulation, Lord Londonderry says, 6 times 5 are 30; and, therefore, in six years 30 millions of debt will be paid off.* We answer—yes, if people can all this time be regularly taxed to that amount, and provided a thousand things do not happen, which most likely will happen. This is silly sooth, but it amuses Country Gentlemen.

We now come to the only direct bonus offered to the gentlemen aforesaid, we mean the reduction of the last duty on malt, by a redemption of the five per cents. It may be said that there is no breach of national faith in this transaction; nor is there. It is somewhat whimsical however to perceive, that one interest is only to be relieved by inflicting positive loss on another; and that other an accidental and promiscuous body, a great portion of which are small annuitants, to whom a loss of about 16 per cent on their income will be a most serious consideration. Still, as a branch of necessary saving, we do not object to it *in fact*, although something *in form*; we think a larger notice should have been given. The manner in which it is proposed to negociate this transfer, will be described in a subsequent column; our object here is simply to expatiate upon it as a boon to the landed interest—the grand sum total, which is to withdraw them from the Slough of Despond, and to cure them of rebelling at County Meetings, and verging into speeches applausive of the exertions of Mr. Hume, while they vote directly the other way.

When we observed that the reduction of the additional Malt Tax was the sole boon afforded to the landed distress, we did not forget the four millions of gold which are to be borrowed to lend on the pledge of poor rates; and for this reason, if so lent, we are quite assured, that they will never be repaid. We can anticipate the possibility of a rise of prices by a reaction upon cultivation; but how the poor rates are to decline by an operation which will still more deprive the agricultural labourer of employ we cannot surmise; yet *this* way of adjusting supply to demand is the panacea of Ministers; and in the unspeakable phraseology of Lord Londonderry, it is this sort of "fructifying of the principles of resurrection" which is ultimately to make all odds even. All this, however, goes down to the solemn admiration of the Goochs and Wortleys. Setting aside the parish scheme, which will be worse than useless, we have no objection to the issue of so much gold, as it may in some respect soften the operation of Peel's Bill, by increasing the amount of currency. We suspect, indeed, that this is the principal motive of the offer; for the eloquent Lord observed, that

* Thirty-nine millions, said his Lordship, correcting Mr. Tierney—well then, 39 millions.

it would do good in this respect, if added to the Sinking Fund, in order at once to increase *public credit*, and feed the circulation. *Ecce iterum Crispinus.* Increase public credit by borrowing to redeem.* How consolotary all this must be to the farmers in the country!

Since we wrote the foregoing observations, we have perused the subsequent debate on the motion of Lord ALTHORPE, which has only supplied us with fresh admiration of the extreme ductility of the reasoning faculties of men of land. The motion of Lord ALTHORPE went merely to the fact, that more should be done in the reduction of taxation; and strange to say, many of the very men, who at various County Meetings were vociferous in the assertion, slurred this motion, overwhelmed by the arguments in favour of a Sinking Fund in the shape of an *estimated* surplus of five millions. It is one of the pleasant set-offs to the necessity of a dreary perusal of the debates in Parliament, that they exhibit the most astonishing varieties of intellect, and, perused with due attention, supply materials for physiological study. The speech of Mr. BANKES, for instance, in favour of the Sinking Fund,—what an amusing specimen of the united force of great experience and native discrimination! We can conceive nothing more truly diverting, than the occasional expatiation of an old gentleman of the PITT School, who imagines that he performs a *part*, on any subject connected with the inventions of that great actor of statesmanship. In vain has the wheat been sifted from the bran in respect to this grand piece of charlatanism; in vain has it been shewn that the more prudent application of a surplus is all that any Sinking Fund can effect. Some of these venerable personages, as honest DOGBERRY says, "will be talking;" and out comes all the old story about compound interest, accumulation, and faith with the Public Creditor, in a jargon about as opposite to the present state of information, as the occult qualities of the schoolmen with the existing stage of sciences. Ministers, while they favour this folly, are somewhat more careful. Whatever may be the operation of the Sinking Fund, said Mr. ROBINSON, it is to be guarded, because it is an outwork of the funded system, which it is intended to attack. Now this is perfectly contrary to the fact; but it is an excellent point to go abroad in the way of alarm. The real value of it is deducible from the circumstance, that there really never has been a Sinking Fund in *fact*, since the commencement of the revolutionary war, or (thanks to Ministers themselves) even in *form* for two or three years past, beyond a very trifle; and yet public credit stood firm, and no one seemed to care a sixpence about the matter. All this fuss, therefore, is for a something—nothing—a thing *in futuro*—an embrio which may, all things agreeing, assume the form of five millions in the course of the year. But, even this argument was utterly without application; with or without a Sinking Fund of five millions, a reduction of taxation is necessary; and with or without it, a reduction of taxation is possible. But taxes, it seems, are not the cause of the existing distress. Suppose we agree, what then? They certainly add to it, a fact very cleverly made apparent in the course of this debate, by the simile of a fallen horse, which is usually eased of its harness to enable it to get up again. All was, however, lost upon the Ministerial Country Gentleman, who is to be pleased during the Session with a Committee, and to return to the country at the end of it, with the internal disrespect of himself, and the open contempt of all other people.

In this summary of the fatuity of the Parliamentary lords of the soil, we must not forget one grand particular; we allude to the eloquent expatiation to which they so patiently listen, upon the prosperity of the country.* In the aforesaid prosperity it is allowed, that they have, at present, no share which possibly ought to be sufficient for them; it certainly ought, if, as we have endeavoured to shew, a great part of the prosperity of other people is a subtraction from their own. But what does this prosperity amount to?—a component part of the United Kingdom is in such a state of insubordination from distress and suffering, the liberty of the public is entirely suspended; and in another the whole agricultural population are in a state of extreme depression, without even a glimpse of the way out, but by a process which for years to come must double it. Lastly, no small portion of our Colonies, and especially the West Indies, are on the verge of a general bankruptcy; and so much for prosperity. All this may come round, and we trust that in time it will do so, but the restoration must arise out of a total change of system, and such an abolition of unnecessary expenditure as the circumstances demand. It is the fashion for the major part of country gentlemen to say "yes" to this, and vote "no." We have no objection, especially at present, the result being so directly to themselves; and martyrdom for public credit and the Sinking Fund, will form a new red letter to the calendar, except indeed the Devil's Advocate object to the canonization, on the plea of interested motives. Mr. CORBETT, who can play that sort of Advocate excellently well, says that this is the case, and asserts, that part of the estates of many of these confessors consists in the taxation which returns in refreshing and partial showers upon themselves and connexions. This to be sure alters the case; and the merit of the martyr cannot be precisely ascer-

* The Commissioners at present only go to market with four millions annually; and hitherto nearly two-thirds of that amount have been borrowed on Exchequer Bills to the increase of the unfunded Debt.

* Some of the "visions of glory" which would not spare the "aching sight" of certain Honourable Gentlemen in the recent debate, are peculiarly diverting. One of them saw agricultural prosperity coming round to us by the way of the Indian Archipelago; upon which, and similar delectability, the *Traveller* thus expatiates:—Prosperity, we are told, is approaching from every side, and one of the Gentlemen, a Mr. WHITMORE, sees it coming. Where, ye powers of nonsense? Why in the Indian Archipelago! The farmers will be, no doubt, anxious to hear of its doubling the Cape of Good Hope.—Mr. WILMOT, a Gentleman who has just got into office, declares, that "a remission of taxation would not only produce no benefit, but ultimately cause material injury." Mr. WILMOT also "trusted, that when the debates of that House were more generally known, and more widely circulated, *absurdity* would vanish from the minds where it had heretofore found a too favourable asylum."—(*hear, hear.*) Good Lord! To hear the men who passed the Corn Law, and who look for relief to agricultural interest from the Indian Archipelago—to hear the men who say that *because* taxation has not caused the low prices of corn, therefore the removal of taxation would have no effect in relieving the producers—to hear the men who voted that Bank-notes were not depreciated, in 1811—to hear the men who have been deceived by Mr. PITT's Sinking Fund, and who for years cried it up as the highest result of human wisdom, till a Scotch school-master proved it to be a humbug—to hear the men who tolerate the assertion, that the distress of the farmers is caused by over-production at home, when their own documents prove that one-sixth part of the food of the people has been imported for the last six years—to hear the men, who suppose that the forcing up of the price of a particular sort of security, will lower the rate of interest throughout the country; to hear these men, we say, talk of their debates as an antidote to absurdity, is certainly a cure for distress; for the man who can get a hearty laugh, is not truly miserable.

tained until a knowledge of the exact quantity of knaves ascertain the residue of fool—a problem for tenants and farmers. Q.

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Feb. 18.

Lord SUFFIELD, in presenting the Norfolk Petition, supported its prayer for Retrenchment and Reform; and adverted to the paltry, inefficient measures of Ministers for relieving the country. The mere repeal of a trifling duty on malt, he said, would be treated with contempt in Norfolk, as utterly inadequate to the relief of the distress.

Lord CALTHORPE noticed, that a similar meeting had been held in Suffolk, where a similar Petition would have passed with as much unanimity, but for an ill-timed motion for Reform. There could be no doubt however, that public opinion had undergone a great change in respect to that topic; and that now a large proportion of the weight and respectability of the country thought some Reform necessary.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 18.

Numerous Petitions were presented from distressed Owners and Occupiers of Land, praying for relief. In presenting one from certain parishes in Devon and Dorset, Mr. Lockhart stated, in order to illustrate the distress which affected the labouring classes, that in the gaol of Bury, of 200 persons confined, 60 were committed for poaching; and it was a notorious fact that men were in the habit of going out to poach by day, with a view of being detected, preferring imprisonment to starvation.

The House went into a Committee of Supply, and Sir G. Warrender asked for a vote of credit on account of the Naval Expenditure, *as a matter of course*. Mr. Hume however refused to consider it as such, and reprobated the practice of passing such votes before the Estimates were laid on the table. He showed there was good reason for this caution, by mentioning several instances of extravagance and waste. Admiral Cochrane, he said, and some other Admirals, who only commanded two or three ships in port, received 4000*l.* a year each, besides having Officers and Secretaries. The charge for powder and shot too for the sea service was 95,000 pounds in the sixth year of peace. Since the war the charge for naval Ordnance had actually been *raised* from 4 to 7 shillings a head!—(*A laugh.*)—The vote was however agreed to, as were some others.

SCOTCH COMMISSARY COURTS.

Lord A. HAMILTON moved for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the Scottish Commissary Courts,—a remnant of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction which existed in each county; and which had become so needless and corrupt, that two several Commissions of Enquiry had recommended their abolition as being not only useless, but pernicious. They were supported by arbitrary fees to a considerable amount. The Ministers and the successive Lord Advocates had been very culpable in not putting an end to this flagrant abuse, after it had been pointed out so undeniably.

The LORD-ADVOCATE—(Sir William Rae—a *Beacon*-bond subscriber)—wished the Noble Lord had communicated with him privately on the subject, as he was himself preparing a Bill regarding the Commissary's and Sheriff's Courts. He thought, however, that the former were useful as courts for the recovery of small debts; and he wished the abolition to be partial, gradual, and attended with pecuniary compensation to the persons dismissed.

After some further conversation, in which the Lord-Advocate pledged himself to bring in his Bill this Session, the motion was withdrawn.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS COMMITTEE.

Lord LONDONDERRY moved, that the Agricultural Committee should be re-appointed; and expressed an opinion, that all discussion previous to their Report would be premature.

Mr. GOOCH thought the Committee quite useless. He expressed himself satisfied with Lord Londonderry's statement on Friday last; which, though it would not give great satisfaction to the agriculturists, was as much as could be done at present. At the same time, he should support any practicable reduction, when the detailed estimates came before the House.

Sir JOHN SHELLEY differed from the last speaker, and felt surprised that the Noble Lord had done so little.—(*Hear!*)—The Sinking Fund was a complete fallacy; and he regretted the Noble Lord had not contented himself with one instead of five millions, and taken off taxes to the amount of four. The Noble Lord's plan appeared to him, indeed, to have for its object to bolster up the funds at the expense of the landed interest, and he for one was by no means satisfied with it.—(*Hear!*)

Mr. WODEHOUSE expressed his confidence that the measures of Ministers would be beneficial. He complimented Mr. Brougham on his late speech, which he said was full of profound views; but he still thought many of that Learned Member's conclusions, though it was difficult to resist them, were unfounded.

Mr. CURWEN thought the Ministers should be prepared with some proposition of their own, instead of appointing a Committee to waste time and create disappointment. He had no objection to the principle of a Sinking Fund; but why could it not wait a little? How much better it would have been, if the expected increase of revenue had been devoted to that Fund; and the five millions had been remitted by taking off the taxes on barley, salt, leather, soap, and candles, which would relieve the farmer to the extent of 20 per cent. on his expenses. With that relief and 20 per cent. reduction of rent, the farmer might go on.

Mr. BENNETT (Wiltshire) ridiculed the notion that the Agricultural Committee would do any good. What were they to enquire into? The mode of relief. But, as the Noble Marquis had told them all they were to expect on that head, what could be hoped from a Committee of the friends of that Noble Lord? The only way to relieve the farmer was to reduce the cost of production; and that could only be done by reducing the taxes. As for the distress of the landholders, he must confess that he did not feel much for them, as they had to thank themselves for it. Though he was himself one of that class, he had not much to blame himself with; but as a body, the landholders had possessed great power, and they had for the last 30 years supported extravagant expenditure in all its parts. When the value of money had increased 33 per cent., the holders of the great places should come and voluntarily give up at least that proportion of their salaries.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Mr. STUART WORTLEY was satisfied with the ministerial measures, but hoped nevertheless, that practical economy would not stop yet.

Mr. RICARDO denounced the Sinking Fund as a pernicious fallacy, the only effects of which were to benefit the Stockholders by raising the price of stock, and to encourage the profligacy of Government, by giving a facility for raising loans. He by no means apprehended any thing like intolerable distress; on the contrary, he thought the country in a state of great prosperity, and its prospects peculiarly encouraging.—(*Hear, hear!*)—He still maintained the opinion which some thought so extraordinary, namely, that Mr. Peel's Bill had not lowered prices more than 5 per cent. Indeed it was demonstrable as a mere matter of arithmetic; for if an ounce of gold purchased as much commodities as 4*l.* 2*s.* of paper money (which was then the case), and the object were to make 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d* of that paper money equal to that ounce of gold, it was evident that there was no greater change necessary than five per cent. to effect that purpose. He admitted however that the Bank, by a great and needless importation of gold, had caused a further depression of prices. He had been represented, very erroneously, to have stated that reduction of taxes was not a benefit. But the contrary was the fact. He always thought that Taxes were injurious, though he would never be so anxious for the Repeal of a particular Tax, affecting a particular class, as for the reduction of the mass of taxation affecting the whole community. He thought every tax fell upon the consumer, not the producer.

Mr. SYKES said, he was much disappointed in the ministerial plans. He had hoped for a reduction of six millions at least in the articles of soap, candles, and leather; but the Noble Marquis had told them that one shilling a bushel in corn was all he could give them.

Mr. PEEL defended his Bill.

Mr. ELLICE regretted the inefficient measures of relief adopted by Government. A reduction of taxation was the only effectual measure. He was ready to support every means that could enable the grower to produce corn at the lowest possible price, for he did not wish to witness any increase of the price of provisions.

The Committee was appointed. It consisted of the same men as composed it last Session.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, Feb. 20.

ATROCIOUS TREATMENT OF MR. HUNT.

Mr. HUME rose to present a Petition, signed by between four and five thousand individuals, from Preston, in Lancashire, and its vicinity, praying the interposition of the House to mitigate the punishment inflicted on Mr. Hunt. Conceiving the Petition

to be one of very considerable importance, he had written to that individual, to ascertain whether the statements contained in it were correct? Mr. Hunt, in answer, assured him that he had been kept for a number of days in solitary confinement, without any person being permitted to have access to him, except the officers of the gaol. Even his surgeon was denied, and he was compelled to wait for a surgeon, who resided five miles from the gaol, at a time when he was seized wih spasms of an alarming nature. Under such circumstances, he (Mr. Hume) felt it to be the duty of the House to see that this individual was not sacrificed to the motives which actuated his persecutors. At the time the sentence was passed, Mr. Hunt expressly asked Mr. Justice Bayley whether his confinement was to be solitary or not? and the answer of Mr. Justice Bayley was, that the Court had given no such order, and that his punishment would be attended with as few privations as the due execution of the sentence would permit. The Petitioners, therefore, never conceived that the caprice or the malignity of the Magistrates could have induced them so far to forget the feelings of humanity, as to get an order confirmed by Judge Best, in January last, dooming Mr. Hunt to the horrors of solitary confinement. Mr. Hume then commented in severe terms upon the cruelty of a sentence pronounced upon a man whose conduct at Manchester the Country at large considered legal and praiseworthy;—a sentence which was calculated to bring the administration of justice into contempt, and which posterity would denounce as the most unjust and the most disproportioned to the offence, that had disgraced the Bench since the time of Judge Jeffries. He begged to ask the Learned Gentleman opposite, when it was in the power of Magistrates to convert a sentence of simple imprisonment into one of solitary confinement? If so, the power of the Court of King's Bench was superseded, and he saw no reason why the Magistrates might not go on to hang a man. He was aware that he should be met by the usual declarations on the other side of the House, that the Judges were men who had the highest regard for humanity and justice; but he (Mr. Hume) looked only to the facts before him, and he felt that men who could pronounce such a sentence, where neither humane nor just, and that they could have no respect for the liberties of the subject. He could, in fact, come to no other conclusion, than that they had used the powers delegated to them by the laws, as an instrument of political vengeance—that instead of confining themselves to the calm, unbiased exercise of their judicial functions, they had listened to the base and paltry suggestions of party malice and revenge, and that under the pretence of pronouncing the judgment of the Court for the offence which came under their cognizance, they had punished this individual—not for the act of which he had been found guilty, but for some former acts which had rendered him obnoxious to the Minister of the day.—(*Hear, hear!*)—The Petitioners prayed that the House would take such steps as might lead either to the remission of the remainder of the sentence on Mr. Hunt, or to the reversal of the order of Sessions, by which he was shut out from the society of his family and friends. He moved, that the Petition be received.

Sir T. Lethbridge denied that the Somerset Magistrates were actuated by the motives imputed to them in the unwarrantable attack of the Hon. Member for Aberdeen. The fact was, that when Mr. Hunt was first imprisoned, he received indulgences which, he was convinced, no other prisoner under his circumstances would have received; and to that indulgence were to be attributed most of the complaints which they now heard. If the Magistrates had subsequently felt themselves under the painful necessity of putting in force the strict regulations of the gaol, sanctioned by the proper authority, they ought not to be called to account for acting up to the strict letter of their duty.

The Solicitor-General said, that Mr. Hunt had written to Mr. Justice Bayley, stating that he was not allowed to see his solicitor, whose aid he required to make an affidavit respecting his treatment. The Learned Judge communicated this letter to the other judges; and they (upon whom the Hon. Member for Aberdeen had ventured to cast such scandalous libels and aspersions) though the application was unsupported by affidavit, made an order for the admission of Mr. Hunt's Solicitor. Notwithstanding the facility, Mr. Hunt had made no application on the subject during the last term. Before the House therefore made any enquiry, it was proper to wait till the allegations were substantiated upon oath. He (the Sol. Gen.) could not pass over the charges of Mr. Hume against the Judges. That the rules for Ilchester gaol had been signed by Justice Best and Baron Graham, and that solitary confinement formed no part of the sentence of Mr. Hunt, he (the Solicitor-General) was disposed to admit as correct; but to say that the Judges had sanctioned the alteration of that sentence, was, he must say, false and calumnious. When the matter came to be investigated in the proper form, it would be found that the Judges, instead of behaving harshly towards Mr. Hunt, had acted with the greatest mildness. He would protest against thus holding up the Judges of the land to public hatred—yes, dragging the characters of those Judges forward, as if they had violated the law, and that upon no substantial foundation whatever.—(*Hear!*)—If the Hon. Gentlemen who had preferred this heavy charge, believed the grounds upon which it was preferred, then they should have brought in a regular motion for inquiry into the conduct of the Judges; for it was not to be borne that Gentlemen should rise in the course of the presenting of a private Petition, and calumniate the administrators of justice in what he, if he were not in that House, would call the most invidious and scandalous manner.

Mr. Bennet said, that the Learned Gentleman might apply the epithet scandalous to what had been advanced by those who supported Mr. Hunt's Petition; but the treatment to which Mr. Hunt had been subjected was much more scandalous. The rules in question were not meant to apply to persons like Mr. Hunt; they were meant to apply only to felons; and this was the first time that he had heard of one found guilty of a political offence being treated as a felon. The Hon. Member for Somerset had stated that the rules were not new, nor were they the production of the Magistrates. It made little difference whether the rules were of ancient or of modern date, or with whom they originated; but the House was bound to see that Magistrates did not, by the enforcing of such rules, add to the rigour of the law. If the Magistrates had a discretionary power, the present case was one in which that power should have been exercised; and they should have modified the execution of the rules. He now begged leave to make a few remarks on the lofty tone which the learned gentleman had thought proper to assume on this occasion. He had expressed himself as if he were in the magisterial chair at the Old Bailey, lecturing some witness or solicitor.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Now, certainly, though the learned gentleman might bring the practice of the courts below into that House, he ought not to bring with it the manners of the courts below.—(*Hear, hear!*)—When the learned gentleman came into a society like the House of Commons, he ought to use such language as became his own situation, and the situation of those to whom he addressed himself.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Such expressions as "scandalous," and "libellous," were really new within the walls of that house.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Where the learned gentleman acquired that language, he did not know; but to use it in that House was highly unbecoming.—(*Hear, hear!*)—It was the duty of a Member of Parliament, if circumstances arose in the conduct of those who presided over the Courts below, which excited his suspicion, to bring those circumstances before the House.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Let gentlemen remember what Lord Coke said,—that "Parliament was bound to keep the Judges in order, as well as other men."

Mr. Lockhart.—There was a general sentiment over the country relative to the treatment under which this prisoner had groaned, and a general feeling that the case altogether was one of the most severe that had happened. Imprisonment, as ordered by the Judges, was simple confinement according to the general practice of the gaols; but if gaolers or mere magistrates had the power of changing that into solitary confinement, then the power of punishing was transferred to those who have no knowledge of the crime.

The Solicitor-General appealed to the House, whether he used indecent or unbecoming language, when he stated that the Hon. Member for Aberdeen, in using such expressions, had grossly libelled the judges.—(*Hear.*)—If the Hon. Member for Shrewsbury imagined that he was to form his manners, or to adapt his language, to that Hon. Member's taste, he was much mistaken.—(*Hear.*)—When he spoke of that Hon. Member's conduct, or adverted to his sentiments, he would state nothing which he would not justify on every occasion, and in every place.—(*Hear, hear!*)

The Speaker said he was quite satisfied, that however mysterious the language of the Learned Member might be, it was of a nature not consistent with the freedom of debate in that House. His impression was, that the learned gentleman did not intend to evade the orders of the House by using mysterious language; and he trusted the learned gentleman would be the first person to rise and disclaim such an intention.

The Solicitor-General said, he merely wished to justify himself against any charge or attack in which the Hon. Member for Shrewsbury might indulge with respect to him.

The Petition was brought up and read. It prayed that the malice or caprice of Magistrates might not be suffered to aggravate Mr. Hunt's sentence. It set forth the benefit done to the county of Somerset by the investigation instituted by Mr. Hunt into the abuses committed in Ilchester gaol. It next contrasted the offence and punishment of Sir Manasseh Lopes with the

offence and punishment of Mr. Hunt, who had been found guilty only upon half a count. It finally prayed that the House should address the King for a remission of the remainder of the imprisonment.

Mr. Hume took occasion to advert to the language of the Solicitor-General. The learned gentleman had adopted a course which was not uncommon with him. It was indeed too much his practice to substitute abuse for argument.—(*Hear.*)

SCOTCH BURGHS.

Lord A. Hamilton called the attention of the House to this subject. He reminded Hon. Gentlemen that three several Reports had been made at various times by their Committees, all of whom described the dreadful corruption and abuses which arose from the system of self-election, as calling for immediate remedy. *Five hundred thousand* inhabitants of the Burghs had petitioned for a Reform. More than *half* of the very Magistrates complained of, had publicly admitted, that under the present system, extravagance and corruption were unavoidable; and when the Magistrates of Aberdeen went out of office, after a conviction for malpractices by the Court of Session, they left it on record, that *no honest men* could act under that corrupt system. Yet the Prince Regent reinstated those very self-condemned persons in the offices they had abused! Lord Hamilton then entered into a long and instructive detail of particular abuses, especially with regard to the waste of the Burgh Revenues, of which the Magistrates had the sole and irresponsible control,—of the bankrupt affairs of some boroughs, and the debts for which the burgesses of others were rendered liable at the pleasure of self-elected governors. The Noble Lord said he could state ten times as much fraud and infamy if the opportunity he sought were afforded him; and he concluded by moving, that the House should resolve itself into a Committee, to enquire into the state of the Scotch Burghs, and the proper remedies.

The Lord-Advocate condemned this motion as an attempt to introduce Parliamentary Reform by a side-wind. He denied the general charge of corruption: there had no doubt been *some* mismanagement in the expenditure of the Burghs, but he appealed to the public buildings in Edinburgh and other towns, to show that the public money had been devoted to objects of public utility. The alteration contemplated by the Noble Lord would affect the election of Members of Parliament, who were now chosen by the magistrates. As the present mode of election was one of the articles of the Union, it was proper therefore, that all other remedies should be tried, before that mode was altered. He (the Lord-Advocate) had a Bill in progress to erect a tribunal before which the burgesses might prosecute the Magistrates for mal-practices.

The motion was supported by Mr. Hume, Mr. Kennedy, and Sir R. Fergusson,—opposed by Lord Binning and Mr. C. Forbes. —Lord Hamilton in reply, reproved the Lord-Advocate for having mixed up with this question that of Parliamentary Reform, with which it had no sort of connexion. This trick alone, his Lordship remarked, was a proof of the weakness of the ministerial course.

The House divided—For the motion, 46—Against it, 81—Majority 35.—Adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 21.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS—TAXATION.

Petitions continued to pour in from distressed owners and occupiers of land, praying for relief.

A debate of considerable length arose on the same topic. It was brought on by Lord Althorp's moving the following Resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this House that the reduction in the amount of Taxation proposed by his Majesty's Ministers, is not sufficient to satisfy the just expectation of the people." His Lordship supported this Resolution in a speech full of clear statement and sound reasoning. He set out with noticing the Ministerial dogma—that *taxation* had no share in producing the present distress. The fallacy of this position, he observed, was at once demonstrable upon a comparison with the year 1792. In that year, we had the same peace, the same currency, the same prices, as in 1822: to none of those causes could the distress be therefore attributed;—but in 1792, we had *less taxes* and the people were in a better condition. Low prices, far from being in themselves a cause of suffering, were a benefit to any country; but when low prices were accompanied with high taxes, the result must be ruinous. The Noble Lord proceeded to contend, that it was the duty of Ministers to afford relief in the only rational and efficient manner, by a large reduction of taxes. He was aware, he said, that the same establishments as those of 1792 required a rather larger expenditure now than then; but the many millions of difference that existed, were scandalous wastes. A proper retrenchment on this head would afford a considerable reduction of taxes; and the rest might be effected by remitting the surplus revenue, which Government intended to devote to the Sinking Fund. With regard to the funds themselves, 5 millions a year would have small effect in keeping up the price; but that sum remitted in taxes would be a most important relief to the country, and would give more confidence even to the money-market than the prospect of paying off thirty millions of the enormous Debt in six years, at the expense of ruining the agricultural interest, and running the hazard of making the nation bankrupt.—This at any rate was clear—that the five millions would tend more to general advantage if returned immediately to the productive capital of the country, than if it were locked up in stock. This argument was replied to on the part of Ministers by Mr. Fred. Robinson, who maintained, in the first place, that Government had done every thing possible in the way of economy, and that further reduction would destroy the resources of the country; secondly, that the Sinking Fund must be kept sacred, or public credit would be annihilated, and the country would be unable to go on; thirdly, that though he admitted and deplored the agricultural distress, the general state of the country was decidedly prosperous. For this last assertion, the Rt. Hon. Gent. relied entirely on the fact of increasing Revenue, which, he insisted, denoted increased consumption, and consequently increased ease in the consumers. Mr. Robinson concluded with moving, as an Amendment, two Resolutions, which embodied the fact of the surplus Revenue and Sinking Fund, and expressed the satisfaction of the House at present prospects. Mr. Robinson was followed by Lord J. Russell, who pointed out several items of expense that might be economised, —the Civil List, salaries, foreign embassies, &c. &c. He also illustrated the effects of taxation in depressing the agriculturists, and remarked upon the dreadful mischiefs which Ministers had brought upon the country by depreciating the currency; though he by no means thought that Mr. Peel's Bill had produced the enormous effects which some ascribed to it.—Mr. Whitmore next made a speech, in which he professed himself at a loss to understand how taxation caused the distress; for he profoundly observed, that taxes rather tended to cause high prices; and as low prices now caused the distress, taxation could have nothing to do with the matter!—Mr. Price was the next speaker: he urged in an honest, straight-forward manner, the necessity of reducing sinecures, pensions, salaries, the army and navy.—One Mr. Wilmot followed, and gave the House the benefit of his assurance, that *the country at large* would be more relieved by the Sinking Fund than by *any remission* of taxes!!—Mr. Bankes made a great stand for the "steady and permanent" security afforded by the Sinking Fund; and enlarged upon the "bright and brilliant" prospects of the country.—Mr. Tierney then addressed the House at considerable length. He treated chiefly of the Sinking Fund, and seemed to aim at a compromise between his old support of that juggle, and his present conviction of its absurdity. He professed himself the advocate of a Sinking Fund on the original plan of Mr. Pitt, who started with a clear surplus of one million a year, and created a plan for the reservation of a Sinking Fund on every new loan;—but after this plan had been abandoned—after it had become the regular practice to take a large portion of the Fund every year in aid of the Revenue—after the compound interest had been given up, and the entire advantages of the plan lost, there was no sort of use in going on with it; it would distress the country, without affording any help to public credit. Mr. Tierney proceeded in his usual pleasant, but diffuse style to roast poor Mr. Vansittart about former declarations, his grave alarm in 1819 lest the debt should be paid off *too fast*, his resolution, that a bank-note in 1812 was worth a guinea, &c.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply, admitted, that the Sinking Fund had been broken in upon; but that was unavoidable without distressing the country by new taxes. Now that we had a real surplus of five millions, however, it should be religiously applied to support public credit—that public credit which was the source of all our greatness—which had enabled us to rouse Europe, and carry our arms from St. Petersburgh to Cadiz!—On a division, Lord Althorp's motion was negatived by 234 to 126.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 22.

BREAKFAST BEVERAGE—SHAMEFUL OPPRESSION.

Mr. Curwen presented a petition from two persons of the name of Wild, who stated that they had been led to believe, last year, on the word of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that no steps would be taken against them for manufacturing their "breakfast powder," provided they did not describe it by any delusive names; they had in consequence never sold it as any thing else than "roasted grain." But, nevertheless, they were threatened with a seizure of their property! They begged that the House would repeal such acts as seemed to authorize such a proceeding.

Mr. Lushington denied that his right hon. friend had made

any such promise as had been imputed to him. He merely stated that he would inquire of the Excise; and from that quarter it was ascertained, that the manufacture of the petitioners was likely to prove extremely injurious to the revenue.

WAYS AND MEANS.—CONFUSED FINANCE ACCOUNTS.

On a motion for a Committee of Ways and Means, a rather curious conversation took place respecting the extraordinary confusion of the Government accounts. Colonel Davis produced two treasury accounts of the Revenue and expenditure of 1820, both of which were signed "C. Arbuthnot," and which differed in many particulars, not in trivial items, but to the amount of nearly *two millions!* Every sum in the expenditure differed in the two statements. The Chancellor of the Exchequer at first gave as a reason, that accounts were made up in different departments for different purposes; upon which Mr. Hume said he did not know what was meant by "different purposes," but when two accounts, professing to be of the same sums, coming from the same office, and signed by the same person, differed so materially, some reasonable explanation ought to be given. He therefore moved, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer be requested to explain these accounts. Mr. Lambton seconded the motion; but upon the suggestion of some Opposition Gentlemen, it was postponed to Monday. Mr. Ricardo then informed the House, that for two or three years past, the surplus of Revenue declared by the Chancellor had vanished at the year's end in an incomprehensible manner. It was stated for instance, that last year the surplus would be 4,000,000; but upon looking to the account, he found it was only 2,600,000! The Chan. of the Exchequer admitted, that he could not for the present explain the variations, noticed by Col. Davies; but that they admitted of explanation, and should be explained in a Committee. He also said, that as the Acts of Parliament fixed a certain surplus every year after the Budget was gone through, it was the practice, when the Revenue fell short of the anticipated amount, to make up the surplus by Exchequer Bills. Mr. Ellice suggested that the best way would be to have a Committee to arrange the public accounts. The Chancellor acquiesced! Mr. Tierney made some ironical remarks upon the Rt. Hon. Gentleman's manner of keeping accounts, and said, that for the last five years he had given up troubling himself with them, as a hopeless task, and he did not believe there were three persons in that house who understood them.

PLURALITIES—GROSS EXTRAVAGANCE.

The House being in Committee, Mr. Hume exposed a case of plurality appearing in the Admiralty expenses. A gentleman receiving at a given period 292*l.* 10*s.* per annum as *unfit for duty*, appeared, just one year after, as a commissioner of stamps at 600*l.* a-year.—(*Hear.*)—In the year 1819, that same gentleman, still retaining his emoluments, was superannuated from the office of commissioner of stamps (*Cheers*), and, in the year succeeding that second superannuation, he was appointed paymaster of pensions to sea-officers' widows, with a salary of no less than 600*l.* a year more.—(*Loud cheers and laughter*)—Therefore this gentleman, because he was unfit for office, received from the country 1,492*l.* 10*s.* per annum.—(*Loud Cheering*).

Sir John Osborn said, that the hon. member's statement was not at all correct.

Mr. Hume begged that the paper which he quoted might be read by the clerk of the house.—(*Cheers.*)

The document was then read; when it appeared that the gentleman in question was Edward Finch Hatton, Esq. and that he received 600*l.* a year as paymaster of the sea-officers' widows; 600*l.* as commissioner of stamps; and 292*l.* 10*s.* as inspector of tea and coffee.

Sir John Osborn said, that only 892*l.* in any way appeared to be received.

Mr. Hume believed that six added to six made twelve, and two more made fourteen.—(*Cheers and laughter*).

Sir John Osborn still said that the Hon. Gentleman was mistaken. He had observed that Mr. Hatton had held a situation in the Admiralty, while the fact was, that he had been Under Secretary of State.

Mr. Hume could not doubt, after the specimen which the House had received of the Hon. Gentleman's (Sir John Osborn's) arithmetical abilities, that the Navy Estimates would be admirably expounded.—(*Laughter*).—But he (Mr. Hume) did claim the interference of the House, against any Hon. Member's rising flatly to contradict another.—(*Hear.*)—It had been too much the custom to adopt that course whenever a disagreeable truth was to be dealt with. With regard to Mr. Hatton's situation, he (Mr. Hume) could only say, that his salary was stated in the account quoted as part of the "expences of Admiralty Office, No. 8." The paper, however, from which he had read one instance of plurality, contained many more; and some which concerned the Hon. Gentlemen opposite.—(*Cheers and laughter.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer complained that Mr. Hume had forgotten to mention that Mr. Hatton had retired from his office of Under Secretary of State, without any reward for his previous services.

NAVAL ESTIMATES.

On a motion that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of Supply:

Mr. Hume entered into a great variety of details respecting the Naval Expenditure. He showed, from the Report of the ministerial Finance Committee, that the Navy expenses were this year more than 200,000 pounds greater than that Committee had declared they ought to have been in 1817. He declared, that the expenses for building and repairing ships since the peace, amounted to the enormous sum of 17,000,000*l.* The Hon. Member further exposed the corrupt abuses at the borough of Queenborough, under the head of Navy Ordnance. He showed, that great floating magazines of powder were kept up as during the war, for no use whatever; and that craft were hired as for the Ordnance which were only used for parties of pleasure. His object in these and other similar statements, was to convince the House of the necessity of having accounts before they voted the gross sums asked for; and he concluded with a motion for certain papers.

Mr. Croker protested, that this was the first time, amid all the wild fancies which had ever entered into the brains of violent politicians and would-be statesmen, that an Hon. Member had made a proposition which would violate the peculiar delicacy observed by our ancestors towards certain branches of naval expenditure. If the circumstances under which the fleet was set afloat, the stations of the ships, &c. were made matters of public intelligence, and consequently made known to foreign nations, it would be inconvenient even in time of peace, and would, in the event of a war, tend to the destruction of the naval power of Great Britain, in which case there would be an end to the existence of the country itself.—(*Cheers.*)—Mr. Croker proceeded to ridicule some of the statements of Mr. Hume. He declared, that instead of 17 millions for building and repairing ships, not 7 had been so expended. But he supposed the Hon. Gentlemen included the charge for dock-yards, wharfs, the Plymouth Breakwater, &c.—that in short the Hon. Gentleman had mistaken stone for wood,—(*hear*)—land for water,—(*hear, hear,*)—storehouses for ships,—(*loud cheers and laughter*)—and the building of the works at Sheerness for the fitting out a fleet of first rates.—(*Loud cheering.*)—Mr. Croker proceeded, amidst prodigious shouting from the Treasury Benches, to load Mr. Hume with similar sarcasms for other, alleged mistakes of trifling amount.

Mr. Hume, in explanation, said, that the Hon. Secretary, without replying to any of his exposures, had been very jocose upon the strength of his own mistatements, or of a few small mistakes made by him (Mr. Hume) arising from the errors in the public accounts. He maintained however, that he was quite right in regard to the sum of 17 millions. Mr. Hume here quoted and added up from public accounts, to show that the exact sum since 1815 was 17,000,702*l.* He was quite prepared, he said, for this sort of attack. Last year he had met with the same pertinacious contradiction as to the alleged measurement of certain Ordnance craft, till he had proved himself right by a return signed by an Ordnance officer.—(*Hear, hear!*)

The motion was however negatived by 144 to 54: and the votes were passed, in spite of continued opposition. Every account subsequently moved for was refused on the same general plea; and another division had a similar result.—Adjourned to Monday.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESSES.

SURREY COUNTY MEETING—PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, &c.

This second Meeting was held on Monday at Epsom, the High Sheriff in the Chair; when

Mr. Leech, in a very sound speech, showed that nothing but a reduction of taxes, and a Reform in Parliament, could effectually relieve the country and restore it to prosperity. He noticed the new plan of Lord Londonderry,—the reduction of one shilling a bushel on the malt duty,—which he supposed must have delighted the freeholders!—(*Laughter.*)—And he asked, how was it possible for Ministers to be honest, while they were eternally leased by those who supported them in the House, to repay them for their votes by the plunder of the public purse? How could they withstand the applications of a body in Parliament, without whose aid their majorities would vanish.—(*Hear, hear!*)—No Minister, with an unreformed House of Commons, could properly carry on the business of the nation.—(*Cheers.*)—

Mr. L. concluded by proposing a Petition, praying for an immediate reduction of taxes and a Reform in Parliament; and stating, that the Freeholders of Surrey would never cease using all lawful means in their power, till that important object was accomplished.

Mr. Hare Townsend seconded the motion most cordially, declaring that without reform neither the property nor the lives of the people were secure.—(*Cheers.*)

Lord King observed, that the freeholders were now taking the only proper and sound course, for it was in vain to think of patching up the disorder. Parliamentary Patronage, a new trade that had sprung up during the last century, afforded an extensive scale of operation to the Boroughmongers, who had been well-designated as "the Proprietors of Parliament;"—and if report spoke true, many a hard bargain they drove with Ministers, though at the Country's expense.—(*Cheers.*)—When several of the Whitehaven voters petitioned respecting a return, Sir James Lowther told them they had no right to petition, for the land they lived on, the water they drank, and the very air they breathed, was his! Sir James, on one occasion, sent down six of *his* Members to the House, making three of them vote on one side and three on the other; for he was then coquetting with Ministers: and he was now a Lord!—(*Laughter.*)—It was a pliable Parliament that made England the envy of surrounding Sovereigns, for they had no such potent instrument. The people, however, were said to be *virtually* represented: but suppose a man brought a false sample of his article to market, would honest men have any dealings with him? Yet of all the samples most difficult to find in the House of Commons were those of honest men.—(*Cheers.*)—The Country Gentlemen, above all others, allowed themselves to be scared by Ministers; they seemed bereft of every sense but that of fear; though they possessed the power of compelling Ministers to make a substantial reduction in the taxes. The Noble Marquis's plan was now known; and it was evident that those who lived upon the taxes would never effectually reduce them, but would endeavour to persuade the people that their distress was not occasioned by the burthen of taxation. Until the call for Retrenchment and Reform was attended to, they should never cease to demand redress.—(*Loud cheers.*)

Lord Ellenborough was of opinion that the existing distresses could not be removed by a reduced taxation. *In America the distress was still greater than in England*, yet in that country there was an equal Representation, and the cheapest possible Government! He intreated them not, by calling for Reform, to tear down the sacred fabric of the Constitution.—(*A voice*: "It is Lord Londonderry, not us, who is pulling down the Constitution.")—The Noble Lord proposed an amended Petition, which concluded by hoping that Parliament would so sympathise with the people, as not to afford them cause to desire any change in the *ancient* constitution of the House of Commons.—This Petition was supported by Mr. Gaitskill.

Mr. Denison supported the original Petition. In Scotland, the 45 Members were all chosen by about 2000 voters in a population of two millions of people. In Glasgow, containing 200,000 souls, there were only five electors!—(*Shame, shame!*)—and this was in a country where Buchanan had written, Fletcher had suffered, and Wallace had bled, in the sacred cause of liberty!—Mr. Denison urged various arguments in favour of Reform, and concluded his speech amid the plaudits of the assemblage.

Mr. Trower gave it as his opinion, that the repeal of certain taxes had contributed to the present distresses. This, he said, would startle the Meeting!—(There was here such a noise that nothing further could be collected.)

Mr. H. G. Bennet took leave to call the above a most absurd and preposterous proposition:—(*Hear, and laughter.*)—and he would tell the Noble Lord (Ellenborough) that though Reform would not restore to the nation the money which had been dragged from it to produce the present calamities, yet it would certainly prevent a repetition of them, and give the people an efficient controul over their property and liberty. If the people of England were fairly represented, should they not see the *Ayes* in the House where the *Noes* now were? But in point of fact, that House was so malconstituted, that every appeal to it was an appeal to the Treasury, and not to the People of England.—The Marquis of Londonderry had plainly told the people that they must look for relief to the curse of famine, not to the blessing of plenty!—(*Hear, hear!*)—What must be the monstrous character of that system under which we live, when Nature's blessings become the curse of man?—Having delivered a speech abounding with such powerful observations, Mr. Bennet concluded by saying he should cordially support the original Petition.—(*Loud and repeated cheers.*)

Mr. Cobbett now addressed the meeting in his usual forcible manner. They had been told, he said, that Taxation was in fact a blessing, than which nothing on the very face of it could be more monstrous. Suppose 100 families lived together, and 20 of them, more cunning than the rest, and armed (for that was the thing after all) should contrive to make the 80 pay them taxes, in order that they should live at ease. Now would not the 80 have less to live on than before? And though the money would come back among them, still they would have to give something for it.—(*Yes, yes!*)—One must give his wheat, another his labour—and so on—all must contribute to get back what was before their own. And this was the nature of taxation.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Whether it was a blessing or not, he would leave to the meeting. If it were, the bliss of the nation was complete! Lord Ellenborough's assertion, that taxation could not be the cause of the distress, he attributed not to the malignity, but to the *simplicity* of the Noble Lord.—(*Laughter.*)—What he had said however about the distress in America, he knew to be *wholly untrue.* There were no petitioners to the Congress for relief, as with us, though prices had also fallen there, and speculating merchants and others had suffered a good deal: but among the American farmers, and almost the whole population were farmers, distress was unknown: and this assertion of the Noble Lord particularly showed the unsoundness of his argument. In fact, the situation of America, where there was hardly any taxation, completely demonstrated that the distresses of this country were caused by its excess.—Some had said that his (Mr. C.'s) prophecies respecting cash payments were falsified; but while notes were still a legal tender, the Bank did not pay in cash, and an immense quantity of country rags were still in circulation. In May 1823, Mr. Peel's bill would be in full effect, and they would then see its ultimate consequences. Prices here must fall with those of other nations, and he therefore thought that they would still be lower. The taxes in 1790, for Great Britain, were not quite 13 millions. In 1820, they were above fifty-one millions! The Excise taxes in 1790 amounted to about 6 millions: in 1820 they were above 23 millions! And these were the taxes that pressed on the farmer and the labourer.—(*Hear, hear!*)—Though in a season of profound peace, the cost of the Army, Navy, and Ordnance, surpassed former ones of widely extended war.—(*Cheers.*)—Would this sort of profusion be allowed in a Parliament chosen by the People?—(*Cheers.*)—The National Debt was the great burthen of all; but if no reduction of it took place, and if things continued as they were now going on, landlords would lose their rents, parsons their tithes, and Government would be the real holders of the land in trust for the fundholders. Things would end in this way, or in a bloody revolution, if the present measures were pushed on: and if the Nobility and the Church were at last to be saved, it would be only by those measures so long prayed for by Jacobins and Radicals.—(*Shouts of approbation from all parts of the vast meeting.*)

Mr. Thelwall supported the original Petition.

Mr. Holme Sumner was of opinion, that little relief would be afforded by a reduced taxation.—(*Loud disapprobation.*)—The commercial and manufacturing interests were now recovered from their depression, and he was sure that the agriculturists would participate in their prosperity. In *detail*, he had always been a Parliamentary Reformer,—(*Laughter*)—that is, whenever electors had forfeited by corrupt practices their elective franchise, he would transfer it to some other less corrupt place. This was his view of reform.

After some observations by Messrs. Taunton and Maberley, the amended Petition was negatived, and the original one carried without a dissentient voice.—It was given to Mr. Denison *alone* to present to Parliament.—The immense multitude then quietly separated.

LORD BYRON'S CAIN.

Lord Byron's *Cain* has given rise to much disquisition on blasphemous writing. One is becoming somewhat weary of the continual alarms of that worthy class of persons who so constantly find matter for these accusations; but, in this case, we are in some degree relieved by the impossibility of their bringing in their usual chime of "blasphemy and sedition;"—a junction of late so constant among the persons to whom I have alluded, that the ear feels strange at the sound of the one word without the immediate succession of the other. Indeed, I am confident, that the disjoining this favourite phrase is so irksome to some tongues, that, while they anathematize Lucifer as a blasphemer, they would fain hang and embowel Cain as a rebel.

Lord Byron, it appears, had some anticipation of all

this;—for he duly apologizes in his Preface for the impossibility he finds of making Lucifer's discourse that of a beneficed clergyman. But this does not at all avail him, he is identified by many with his hero Lucifer himself.

It is vain to say that it is not fair to call Lord Byron Lucifer while Milton is not considered to be Satan. The "blasphemy and sedition" people let Milton pass in favour of his poem being a classical and *established* work; but they cannot allow the *innovation* of writing on these subjects at this time of day, the more especially as a Court retainer tells them that the innovator is, as Win Jenkins says, "little better than an impfiddle," and moreover the head of "the Satanic school."

Putting aside, however, hireling abuse and ultra tremors, let us consider the fairness of the doctrine which has of late so much obtained of identifying the writer with the characters he paints. We have never heard of Shakspeare being thought to be Iago—of Young being called Zanga—Moore, Stukely—or Home, Glenalvon:—it has remained for this age to identify Mr. Maturin with Bertram and Melmoth, and Lord Byron with the devil himself. It is to be observed also that this very fair imputation is not extended to those writers who are considered to support the cause of Power; at least, I have never met with any who accused Mr. Southey of being Kehama, or who pretended that they had discovered the Author of Waverley in the person of Rashleigh Osbaldistone. It is likewise remarkable that authors are never likened to their amiable personages, but are forthwith invested with the evil attributes of the wicked people they have drawn.

In the present instance it has been asserted, that Lord Byron has made the character of Lucifer the channel to pour forth his blasphemous tenets. If he have, he must be a much worse advocate of his opinions than I take him to be; for he has made the acting up to the words of Lucifer the cause not only of the deepest guilt but of the most utter and irremediable wretchedness. Lucifer tempts Cain; he succeeds in persuading him to do evil, and the immediate consequence is the severest and most hopeless misery. Surely a man of Lord B.'s talents, who wished to support and propagate the doctrines which have been imputed to this book, would not have shown such absurd want of skill as to represent his opinions leading at once to pre-eminent wretchedness, direct and self-caused:—he would not have overthrown his own theory by the most decisive of all proofs—an immediate appeal to facts. It must, indeed, be an unreasoning mind which can be led to admire, far less adopt, tenets which thus immediately lead to such results.

I will pass over the universal practice of all writers of fiction, as to giving the arguments of the tempter before coming to the action of the tempted, and the consequences of the deed. I will appeal at once to an authority which those who cavil most at this book will be the most ready to submit to—I mean to the Bible itself—to the Mosaic story of the fall of our first Parents. In this, the serpent tempts Eve, as Lucifer, in this poem, tempts Cain. Eve fails, as does her son; the immediate consequence of the sin of both is punishment awarded by the Deity, and agony self-inflicted—can there be a closer parallel? The arguments of the serpent which corrupt Eve are given to the full as much in detail, in proportion to the length of the story, as Lord Byron has made those of Lucifer which cause Cain to sin. The temptation precedes the crime; dire and immediate punishment follows it: this is natural progression and poetical justice,—this is, as I have proved, the practice not only of all profane writers, but of Moses himself.

To proceed in the argument after the last I have used would be in the nature of an anti-climax; but are we, I must ask, in a case like this, to listen with patience to an accusation equally foul, false, and absurd? Are we to repress our indignation and contempt of the venomous few who give birth to such charges, and the drivelling many who blindly re-echo them? Ought we not rather to expose their direct, and one would think, evident untruth, and show the besotted alarmists how hollow the means are by which the tools of Power have contrived to lead them by the nose?

When literary envy joins itselfto political ill-will, there is no meanness or malevolence of which it will not be guilty. In this instance, those who have been swayed by these worthy passions have made that accusation which would weigh heaviest against the accused, and, in these days, would find the most gulls to take it on their word. I trust I have shewn how much that word is to be relied on.

B.

REPLY OF MESSRS. PALADINI AND MAJENZA.

Mr. Editor,—In the retirement in which I live, chance has brought under my eye an article in your Paper of the 27th inst. stating, with too much precision, and with little knowledge of the affairs, that the Neapolitan people have been calumniated by the agents of the Austro-Neapolitan government, and amongst these agents are named Majenza, and more particularly Paladini, affirming that we, and more especially myself, were arrested under the ancient government of Naples for frauds, and again under the Constitutional government as conspirators against the Constitution, alleging also that these agents were the authors of a Letter to the Marquis of Lansdown by an Ausonian.

Mr. Editor, William Paladini, against whom these sarcasms are violently cast, is one of those men that in his own country has acquired a reputation which can never be destroyed by any calumniator Correspondent of yours—but I can inform you that at the fall of the Republic in 1799, he was arrested as a Patriot, having fought against the Royalists in company with his brother, who fell in the battle, for which he was banished for life, and all his property confiscated. In 1801, at the Treaty of Sienna, between Napoleon and the King of Naples, he returned to his country, and applied himself to the profession of the law; at the return of the French in 1806, he was elected a Magistrate for the time, and again Chief Magistrate in 1809. In 1811, he was appointed King's Attorney, which office, after some years, he spontaneously relinquished, but not until he had given five times over his resignation, and which had always been refused. He then returned to the profession of the law, and would you but procure better informants amongst your Correspondents you would be assured of his good reputation acquired in his professions and his offices.—Mr. Paladini never entered in any plots of revolt; but when the Revolution took place in Naples, and the King had sworn to the Constitution, he then took part in it to prevent the fall of the same, and to prevent that his country should fall a victim, and under the oppression of the foreign troops, it was on that account that he persuaded the formation of an army to protect the country. Paladini had succeeded, and had certainly advised, not to trust the command of it to General Pepe again,who was then Commandant in Chief. When a certain Borelli,very likely united with others in causing the arrest of Paladini, and his friend Majenza, while taking a refreshment in the street of Toledo, except on these circumstances, Paladini never was arrested; and you, Mr. Editor, will surely allow, that a liberal man may be proud of his sufferings, and of his hopes as mine were in 1799 and 1821? That neither Paladini or Majenza were conspirators against the Constitution the Numbers 1 and 2 of the Neapolitan Newspaper called the Censor, published in the time of the Constitution, will inform you by the sentence of the Court, and of the action brought also by the said individuals against Borelli for false accusation and imprisonment. And for the violation of the Constitutional Laws, the Neapolitan Newspaper called La Minerva, at page 121, of the 12th Number, notices the declaration of innocence of Paladini by the Courts; the English pamphlet, called Memoirs of the Institution of the Carbonari, published by Murray, at page 161, in the Letter of the Author to the Translator, assures him that Paladini and Majenza were so much interested in the support of the Constitution, that the moderation of the Neapolitans was called imbecility, and that without severity and bloodshed the new Government could not be established, and on that account are called under the definition of *Ultra-Liberals*, though they never were such. He asserts that they were discharged for want of proofs, but, in reality, for want of crime, as he assures that they never conspired in favour of the Germans, nor against the Constitution.

The General Archives of the Golva granted him the certificate of *never* having been accused, or criminal of any fraud. This certificate being necessary to him previously of obtaining his admission as Advocate in Law—a certificate required at the return of the Bourbons in Naples; the Chancery of the Court of Justice grant him praises, and declares him innocent; the public papers

acknowledge his innocence—how then can be proved the assertion of his being arrested for frauds?—but on the contrary—Did not Paladini, to prevent falling in the hands of the Austrians, leave his wife and 4 children, and a beloved country in which he had acquired the respect, and the affection of his fellow-citizens? Emigrated in the utmost poverty and deprived of the utmost necessaries of life? The agents of the Austro-Neapolitan Government are then retired in the narrow space of a garret for want, suffering all privations.

Mr. Editor, the documents here mentioned can be immediately procured and produced. I have then to conclude, saying that Paladini and Majenza have been calumniated by your false assertions. We are in hopes that you will be just enough to insert this in your next; and contradict the false assertions you made against the real suffering Emigrant Patriots.

PALADINI and MAJENZA.

[NOTE.—The above letter is a reply to the charges against Messrs. Paladini and Majenza, which appeared in a late *Examiner*. It must be evident to every intelligent reader, that if any man's simple denial of guilt was to be received as a proof of innocence, there would hardly be an acknowledged criminal in existence. Had Messrs Paladini and Majenza given a reference for the truth of their statements, to any one of the many distinguished and honourable Neapolitans now in London, it would have been worth more than ten thousand such interested denials.—Their notice of one of the ablest and most patriotic men in Italy, as "a certain Borelli," certainly does not at all add to our confidence in their assertions, or increase our belief in their professions.—*Examiner*.]

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

F. W. Collins, Dorset-place, Clapham-road, coal-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Reeves, Furnival's Inn.

G. Wilson, Bell-street, Ratcliffe-highway, brewer. Attorney, Mr. Cranch, Union-court, Broad-street.

J. Righton, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, dealer. Attorney, Mr. Back, Temple.

T. Manning, Foulsham, Norfolk, grocer. Attornies, Messrs. Lougdill and Co. Gray's Inn.

J. Gilbert and H. Taylor, Bristol, commission-merchants. Attorney, Mr. Evans, Hatton-garden.

R. Lilwall, Pembroke, maltster. Attornies, Messrs. Bell and Co. Bow Church-yard.

G. Melanscheg, Strand, furrier. Attornies, Messrs. Pearce and Co. Swithin's-lane.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

A. Joseph, Magdalen-row, Prescott-street, Goodman's-fields, merchant.

J. Pearson, Manchester, joiner.

J. Russell, Rochester, wine and brandy merchant.

T. Boucher, Cheltenham, cabinet-maker.

J. H. Tucker, Jermyn-street, St. James's, chemist.

J. Child, Aldermanbury, hosier.

J. Swith, North-street, Westminster, tailor.

W. Scarth, Morley, Yorkshire, woollen-cloth-manufacturer.

J. Scarth, Morley, Yorkshire, woollen-cloth-manufacturer.

A. Andrade and T. Worswick, Lancaster, bankers.

Our Subscribers are requested to observe, that the Price of the EXAMINER *is now the same as that of the Daily Papers,*—SEVEN-PENCE.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several articles are omitted for want of room; among others a further notice of Mr. COBBETT and the *Times*; the continued criticism on the FINE ARTS; and a Notice of Friday's Concert at Covent-Garden.

On Friday, in consequence of a notice from the Finance Ministers, the bankers and other principal holders of Navy Five per Cents, met Lord Liverpool and Mr. Vansittart at the Treasury, to have explained to them the plan for converting that stock into Four per Cents. The Plan was stated as follows:—*All* holders of Five per Cents, who shall not signify their dissent in books to lie open at the Bank from the 4th to the 16th of March, shall receive 105*l.* of New Four per Cent. stock. Persons out of the kingdom to be allowed till June 1st, to signify their dissent; and persons out of Europe till March 1, 1823. Persons dissenting to be paid off in the numerical order of their names subscribed, after the 5th of July next, in such manner as Parliament may direct. The July dividends on the Five per Cents to be paid to all holders, dissenting or assenting; and the first dividend on the new Four per Cents to be on the 5th January, 1823. A Bill will be prepared to indemnify Trustees who hold Five per Cent. stock, for changing it to Four per Cents.

The effect of this proposition has been of course to create an extraordinary bustle on the Stock Exchange. The country people are selling their 5 per cents. very fast; but the less sensitive holders are waiting over the Debate of to-morrow. It seems probable, that many millions of capital will go to the foreign funds; and some persons consider that this will go a great way to counterbalance the saving accruing from reduced interest. All foreign stock is rising, particularly French: *rentes* are 90 fr. 20 c. The latest quotation of our own yesterday is as under:—

Consols . . . 79⅛

3 per Cent. Red. 79⅞	3 per Cent. Cons..... 79⅞
5 per Cents. 103⅛	Consols for Acc. 79⅞

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 24.

THE subject of Mr. HUNT's treatment in Ilchester gaol came before Parliament again on Wednesday, when it was introduced by a very manly and feeling speech from Mr. HUME, and gave rise to a discussion of great interest. The statement is, that Mr. HUNT has been, by a sudden enforcement of a new prison regulation, cut off from intercourse with his family and friends, and subjected, in short, to all the horrors of solitary confinement; and as this account has met with no better contradiction than Sir THOMAS LETHBRIDGE's "ignorance" of the fact, we have small doubt of its general correctness. Now we conceive this to be a very brutal and shameless proceeding. Sir THOMAS, with that unfeeling stupidity for which he is notorious, says that the present complaints are owing to great former indulgences which the Magistrates have been under the "painful necessity" of taking away, in obedience to the strict regulations of the gaol. This is to be sure a very summary way of getting rid of the case, but does Sir THOMAS really think it a trifle, in regard to justice and decency, that a man is to be treated in one manner for one portion of his imprisonment, and in another manner for the remainder; and with such a difference too, as will in all probability render a few months of the severe treatment equal to years of the milder? Is that nothing, Sir THOMAS? Is the power of aggravating a legal sentence in that fashion to be surrendered with so much complacency to a set of Tory Magistrates, for them to torture their political opponents?

But the fact is, the thick-headed Baronet is as false in his fact (if the Reporters give his words correctly) as he is cold-blooded in his sentiment. Mr. HUNT has *not* "received indulgences such as no other prisoner under his circumstances would have received." He has, as we understand it, been allowed to have intercourse with his family, and at certain hours in the day to see his friends. Is that any thing unreasonable or out-of-the-way for a gentleman charged with no moral crime, and imprisoned only for obnoxious political conduct? The ordinary practice in all the gaols of the country has been to make a marked distinction in treatment between prisoners for political offences and acknowledged criminals. It is a scandal, no doubt, to the laws and the discipline of prisons, that there is no regular provision for such persons. But the necessity and common sense of the case have gradually done that which the law has omitted; and as political

offenders are sent to different parts of the country, usually for local reasons, their treatment would differ in a most scandalous and absurd degree, did not a general understanding prevail among gaolers, in regard to their situation. It is to be particularly observed, moreover, that the Judges, in passing sentence upon this class of defendants, do so with the knowledge of this understanding—a fact which of course has a material effect upon the sentence. Indeed, the practice of the Bench seems quite decisive on this point; for where solitary imprisonment is intended, it is *expressly* ordered; and when not ordered, is not of course inflicted, even with regard to *criminals*. All this being considered, what can be more monstrous, than that a power beyond the law—a power affecting the comforts, the health, and even the lives of individuals,—should be exercised by a set of irresponsible and party men? Sir T. LETHBRIDGE, among other stupid or tricking assertions, talked of the Magistrates of Somerset "acting up to the strict letter of their duty," as if they were compelled against their wills—kind souls!—to shut a man up in a solitary dungeon. *Can* he be ignorant, that the Magistrates, who make the prison rules at Quarter Sessions, can also suspend their operation in particular cases; and that the main object in trusting the gaol government to County Magistrates, is, that from their local knowledge, they may be enabled to make distinctions in such cases as that of Mr. HUNT? Every body sees, that but for such distinction, a defendant in a political prosecution would be worse off than the common thieves and felons; for *they* enjoy at least the society of each other, whereas a person of the rank of a gentleman can only in most cases get society from without the walls. In Mr. HUNT's case, this new mode of treatment is especially indefensible; for at the very moment when we first hear of it, Mr. HARDY the gaoler is writing to the *Courier*, to testify (in answer to some malicious reports) to the propriety of that gentleman's conduct! But Mr. HUNT has been guilty of the unpardonable sin of exposing prison abuses which the Magistrates shut their eyes to, and ousting a gaoler whom they had declared immaculate;—behold the just and humane result! There is literally no other reason to be given.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL's attempt to screen the Judges from Parliamentary remark was amusing. So also are the other debates of the week, in particular the sad exposure of poor Mr. VANSITTART's accounts, and the desperate attempts of Mr. CROKER to *laugh down* Mr. HUME upon pretended inaccuracies of statement.

Sir Everard Home, we are told, met with a rather unpleasant reception, the other day, at the conclusion of his Hunterian Oration at the College of Surgeons. A member rose, and declared, that rather than be compelled to hear such tattling about the frolics of deer and the gambols of tomtits, he would prefer being excluded from the College, or even banished the country. The audience, we are informed, thought the complainant not much to blame!

Mr. Croker's friend, the Public Defaulter, Theodore Hook, is still, we believe, a constant contributer to the infamous Weekly Paper, supposed by many to have been planned by the Admiralty Secretary in his retirement at the Palace at Kensington, in which his Majesty has given him a suite of apartments. It will be recollected, that the chief object of this paper was to vilify the Queen, and all those who befriended that unhappy lady.

While the paramount necessity of retrenchment is so obvious to all classes,—while so many millions are silently contriving how they shall narrow their wants with their decrease of means,—while the universal distress is acknowledged even from the Throne itself,—is it not remarkable, that the OCCUPIER of that high seat, the PERSONAGE above all others capable of setting a "splendid" example, and from whom, above all others, such an example would be most proper and becoming,—is it not remarkable, we ask, that HE should have given no intimation of his determination to reduce his own immediate expenses, to surrender up a portion of his enormous salary, and to offer to his suffering children,—(he being "the Father of his people,")—a royal example of forbearance, privation, and patriotism? To say nothing of decorum or justice, would not such a proceeding be most discreet and politic, at a time when almost every man's eyes, sharpened by poverty, are keenly fixed on the conduct of persons in high places, and on those in particular who live entirely on the public purse? We most certainly think it would; and are moreover of opinion, that if early and long-continued habits of expense,—if an almost half century of indulgence in frivolous and costly pleasures,—have not entirely besotted the faculties, narrowed the intellect, and hardened the better feelings, we shall shortly have to compliment the Throne on a course of conduct which would go far in gaining "golden opinions of all sorts of men," and, like the twice-blessed Charity, would indeed cover, if not redeem, a multitude of sins. The Monarch of a struggling nation should act the part of a gallant Commander of a ship in distress,—who takes his full portion of the danger, the labour, and the privation endured by the crew. He surrenders up his delicacies and even comforts to the disabled—encourages and consoles the desponding—confines himself to the scanty allowance of musty biscuit, and the cautiously measured-out pittance of impure water;—in a word, he is the chief in suffering, as he is the first in command. And verily he has his reward, as well in his own comfortable feelings, as in the applause and rooted affection of his admiring fellow-creatures. "Wouldst thou multiply thy riches?" (asks the philosopher) "Diminish them wisely. Or wouldst thou make thy estate entire? Divide it charitably. Seeds that are scattered encrease."—The Sinecure and Pension-list should be rigidly reformed. Why, for instance, should not Mr. Canning be compelled to take upon himself the usually grateful task of supporting a mother and sister from his own well-filled purse? Upon what possible pretence could those ladies have been saddled upon the nation, or with what countenance could their Right Honourable Relation have mentioned *their* claims to the fountain of honours and wealth? The boldness of the job seems almost marvellous! Had Mr. Canning been one of a race that

> "- - - - - - - - - doubtless springs
> From great and glorious, but forgotten kings,"

Even then we should have been unable to discover what right he possessed to fasten his family, like leeches, on the body politic: as it is, its assurance can only be equalled by its meanness, considering his own ample means and the public distresses. Then again, there is the Duke of Clarence's offspring by Mrs. Jordan, and even, it seems, another Daughter of that ill-fated Lady by a former connexion, all public stipendiaries. Is this sufferable? We dare say that all these females are amiable and interesting women: but, in the name of all that is decent, how could such a personage as the Duke of Clarence, without one single claim on the public, mental, personal, or professional, that we ever heard of, (except indeed his pertinacious support of the traffic in human flesh, since made a felony, can be so considered)—how, we ask, could such a personage, himself most liberally provided for, muster up face enough to desire that his children also should be maintained at the public cost? Truly, both these jobs are shining specimens of *legitimate* brass; yet have they both been quietly sanctioned by those illustrious Guardians of the Public Purse, who get men into prison for venturing to doubt their vigilance and purity? *Falstaff*, though patronized by a *Prince*, did not succeed in his wish to rob the Exchequer. That profitable work seems

now to be executed, as a play is performed, "by desire of several persons of distinction," for the benefit of a company of court favourites, some of whom appear to possess most of the qualities of the fat knight, his good humour and wit excepted. *Falstaff* was indeed a sensualist, a swaggerer, and a liar, and, being always in want of money owing to his extravagance, cared little about the means of raising it; but there was no malignity in his character —nothing absolutely disgusting—*he* never basely joined in striking at an unhappy and prostrate female!—Surely this insulting and vampire system of extortion can never last. We shall keep this subject open, as it is one of the highest importance. There is not a single Prince of the Blood, or great Public Officer, who should spare himself, or be spared, in this day of national suffering; and if the people do their duty, not a man of them can avoid partaking their due share of the universal burthen. They must be instructed to "assume a virtue, if they have it not." So let it be; and it shall not be for any want of plain-speaking on our humble part, that this work of necessity and common decency is not brought to a speedy issue.

MR. BELLCHAMBERS VERSUS THE EXAMINER.

EXTRACTS FROM PLAINTIFF'S VERSION OF *It Mose in Egitto*:—

There is a fear of icy coldness
That from my heart takes all its boldness.
The woe we feel is too severe
For hearts to mock who meet it here.

Despair and anguish twine their toils
Around it, though my heart recoils.

What cruel thoughts impel thee
To mock the griefs I feel?
The tears I shed should tell thee
Whate'er those tears conceal.

The peace that fate has chang'd to pain
Is all my heart aspires to gain,
And will not Heav'n ere long consent
To crown a pray'r of pure intent?

This dire excess demands a tear
From ev'ry heart that circles here,
While on that heart, oppress'd with pain,
The stars have heap'd their dark disdain.

Oh God of love, her breast inspire
With more, far more, than mortal fire;
And teach her soul, uncheck'd by fear,
To scorn the ills that threaten here.

And canst thou still, too fearless,
Neglect what reason names?

- - - - - - - - - Ohe!
Jam satis est. HORACE.

Non recito cuiquam, nisi amicis, idque coactus;
Non ubivis, coramve quibuslibet. In medio qui
Scriptu foro recitent, sunt multi.* * * *
* * * * * * * * *

- - - - *Inanes*
Hoc juvat, haud illud quærentes, num sine sensu,
Tempora num faciant aliena. HORACE.

ERRATUM.—In the Postscript to our last Notice of Mr. Bochsa's Concert,—for "the fine notes expressive of *most melancholy*,"—read, "the *flat* notes." The mistake weakens the passage almost as much as the quadruple-quavers therein objected to, mar the intended effect of the Composer.

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

"_____ So we'll live,
"And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh
"At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
"Talk of Court News; and we'll talk with them too,
"Who loses and who wins; who's in, who's out;
"And take upon us the mystery of things,
"As if we were God's Spies."———SHAKSPEARE.

FAILURE OF WORSWICK'S LANCASTER BANK.—A Correspondent of *The Preston Chronicle*, writing from Lancaster, says—"He is unable to depict the effects already manifested from this distressing occurrence. Families who have moved in the respectable and higher circles, are in one day sunk below the common level of tradesmen; indeed there is scarcely an individual throughout the whole town or neighbourhood who is not one way or other affected. Our agriculturists, manufacturers, and commercial men are all heavily in. But it does not stop even here: mechanics, single men, and widows have trusted their little all. It could not have taken place at a more unfortunate time, as there had been extensive lodgements made for purchases of land to be paid at Candlemas. I believe it is not yet fully known to what amount they have stopped, but I am under the mark at 335,000*l.* Lancaster, in all its distress, never met with such a blow as this.—Creditors have offered to sell at 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* in the pound."

It is said his Majesty is determined to send the Order of the Garter to Denmark, and that Sir Thomas Tyrwhit is to be the bearer of it. There is a curious history appended to this piece of State policy, which time alone will unravel.—*Morning Chronicle.*

An immense mass of lithographic engravings, representing Buonaparte, or the members of his family, and allegorical subjects, calculated to excite public disturbance, was on Saturday seized by the police authorities. Several individuals, by whom they were executed, have been taken into custody.—*French paper.*

A novel pedestrian match took place on Wednesday on the Peckham Road, a Gentleman, of the name of Bartleman, having undertaken to go backwards twelve miles in two hours. The pedestrian did the first mile in seven minutes, and four miles in thirty-two minutes. He did within two hundred yards of seven miles in the hour, and halted about two minutes. He won the match, having two minutes only to spare, with much trouble, as he frequently fell from giddiness in the last two miles, and felt the effects seriously after it was over. Betting was 2 to 1 on time.

Mr. MATHEWS has been making a tour to Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. and has collected, it is said, a vast fund of anecdote and whim for his new forthcoming entertainments at the English Opera-house.

Cambridge House, the residence of the late Queen Caroline, was last week put up by auction, and *bought in* at 8,500*l.*

GRETNA-GREEN MARRIAGE.—A few days ago, Mr. Clegg, trunk-maker of Manchester, was united to Miss Dawson, daughter of the late Mr. Dawson, linen-merchant, of that town.—The lady is of no less *weight* than *forty thousand pounds.* It is reported that three thousand of this, with the accumulated interest, making it up to about ten thousand, are at her own disposal, so is the interest of the remainder, till she be twenty-one, when she will enter into possession of the whole—she is now eighteen. There was a little very active manœuvering in this elopement. Miss Dawson was in the habit of visiting a female family acquaintance, whence she was regularly conveyed home in a hackney coach. Mr. Clegg sent the coach about the usual time, took her up at the lady's door, and drove out of town. Her absence was therefore not discovered for some hours; and her destination not for a considerable time, as the fugitives had carried the hackney coachman forward to Gretna Green; consequently there was no person to inform the lady's friends of her route. The parties who at last pursued, were more than twelve hours behind the lovers.—*Tyne Mercury.*

The quantity of Bank Notes and Bank Post Bills in circulation on the 12th of February instant, amounted to 18,922,430*l.* On the 8th of January, the quantity in circulation was only 16,666,720*l.* There are now out 1,458,540*l.* of notes under 5*l.* In June last, there were 3,597,420*l.* of this description of notes afloat.

BRIDGE-STREET GANG AND THEIR SOLOMON!—The Reverend Solomon Pigot is, we are informed, one of the "distinguished writers" in the pay (is he paid?) of this new Inquisition. He writes a periodical called the *Monthly Reflector*; and the following precious anecdote will show of what sort of spirit he is, as well as afford a sufficient proof of his veracity or credulity:—"It was lately that one of our young sprightly radicals of the present enlightened day, was entertaining the company at a Coffee-house with his pretty profane drolleries, and sarcastic remarks on religion and the Bible; when an Officer in the room suddenly started up and said, "Sir, that God whom you dishonour, whose religion you have ridiculed, and whose Word you have profaned, is my best friend, for he is my Creator, my

Father and Preserver! and though I cannot *dispute* for him, I can *fight* for him, and therefore in the name of my best friend whom you have affronted, I demand satisfaction!"—This rebuff so struck and terrified the young hero in blasphemy, that he acknowledged his error; and instead of *fighting* the *Christian* Officer, placed himself by his side, to join in the *new* warfare against infidelity."—*Monthly Reflector*, p. 9.

THE LATE FIGHT.—"Hickman generally stood with his back to me; but in the scuffle he had changed positions, and Neate just then made a tremendous lunge at him, and hit him full in the face. It was doubtful whether he would fall backwards or forwards; he hung suspended for a second or two, and then fell back, throwing his hands in the air, and with his face lifted up to the sky. I never saw any thing more terrific than his aspect just before he fell. All traces of life, of natural expression, were gone from him. His face was like a human skull, a death's head, spouting blood. The eyes were filled with blood, the nose streamed with blood, the mouth gaped with blood! He was not like an actual man, but like a preternatural, spectral appearance, or like one of the figures in Dante's *Inferno*."—*New Monthly Mag.*—There wants nothing, in our judgment, to complete the disgust which this powerful picture excites, but to keep in mind the fact, that the heroes of the scene are thus brutally disfiguring "the human face divine" for a certain number of pounds sterling; and that the lookers-on and applauders are, for the most part, as deficient in common honesty as they are wanting in intellect and courage.

GEORGE BUCHANAN.—On the publication of his History of Scotland, Buchanan was cited to appear before the Privy Council, for the false opinions it contained had given great offence to the King (James). The summons was communicated to Buchanan while he was on his death-bed: when the philosopher remarked with much indifference, "that his Majesty's anger gave him little or no concern, as he was going to a place where there were few Kings."—At this time he asked his servant how much money he held of his?—and finding it insufficient for his burial, he ordered him to distribute it among the poor. "Who, in that case (said the servant) will defray the expense of the funeral?" Buchanan replied to this, that he was very indifferent: if they refused to bury him, they might let him lie where he was, or throw his corse where they pleased. He died Sept. 5, 1582, aged 76; and was buried at the public charge by the Magistrates of Edinburgh.

David Garrick was on a visit at Mr. Rigby's seat, Mistley Hall, Essex,—when Dr. Gough formed one of the party. Observing the very potent appetite of the learned Dr., Garrick got the servant one day to notice every thing he partook of, and to put an equal quantity of each into a capacious punch bowl. When dinner was over, Garrick produced the ponderous vessel, and cracked divers co rse jokes on the subject—all which the company—one alone excepted,—enjoyed mightily. Dr. Gough, with much composure, when the laugh had subsided, thus addressed the party:—"You must doubtless suppose, from the extreme familiarity with which Mr. Garrick has thought fit to treat me, that I am an old acquaintance of his; but I can assure you, that till I met him here, I never saw him but once before, and then I paid five shillings for the sight!"—Roscius was dumb!

PARLIAMENTARY CORRUPTION.—Corruption is more or less dangerous in proportion to the stations in which corrupt men are placed. When a private man receives any advantage to betray a trust, one or a few persons may suffer: if a Judge be corrupted, the oppression is extended to greater numbers: but when Legislators are bribed, or (which is all one) are under any particular engagement that may influence them in their legislative capacity, much more when an entire State of Parliament is brought under those circumstances, *then it is that we must expect Injustice established by Law*, and all those consequences which will inevitably follow the subversion of a Constitution—I mean, STANDING ARMIES, OPPRESSIVE TAXES, SLAVERY; whilst the *outward form* only of the ancient Government remains to give them authority.—I confess I have been often struck with astonishment, and could never make an end of admiring the folly and stupidity of men living under some modern Governments, who will exclaim against a Judge that takes bribes, and never rest till he be punished, and yet at the same time *suffer great numbers of those who have the legislative authority to receive the constant bribes of Places and Pensions* to betray them.—*Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun.*

COLOUR OF ADAM.—Mr. R. P. Knight, once a sort of Oracle in Art, (that is, before his judgment on the Elgin Marbles sufficiently marked his want of discernment)—intimates in his book on Taste that the Father of the human race was an African Black! If this were so, the Hottentot Venus must have been a tolerable resemblance of Eve—"the fairest of her daughters she,"—as Milton says! By what process so many of her black children have been washed white, it seems difficult to say.

CASHMEER SHAWLS.—The very finest of these articles will occupy three men in making it a whole year. The wool used comes from the Tartary shawl goats; and its price in Cashmeer is about 3*s.* a pound. The number of shawls manufactured in Cashmeer, of all descriptions, has been reckoned at eighty thousand a-year.

TOBACCO.—The first James was such an enemy to smoking, that he deemed it an infernal invention. Whenever a fog came on while he was hunting, a diversion for which he had a passion, he used to say that Beelzebub was smoking tobacco.

LONDON STREETS.—The luxury of paved streets was not known in London till the eleventh century. In 1090, Cheapside was of such soft earth, that when the roof of Bow Church was blown off by a gale of wind, four beams, each 26 feet long, were so deeply buried in the street, that only about 4 feet were seen above the surface. Holborn was not paved till 1417, before which time it was often impassable on account of the mud. Smithfield was paved in 1614: and it was only in 1762, that paving the streets was ordered by a general Act of the Legislature.—It was not before 1414, that the streets were lighted, when lanterns were used for that purpose.

A NOBLE BREAKFAST IN 1600.—From the household book of the Earl of Northumberland, it appears that my Lord and Lady had set on their table for breakfast, at 7 in the morning, one quart of beer, as much wine, two pieces of salt fish, six red herrings, four white ones, or a dish of sprats!—What would many Ladyship's ladies'-maids say now to such "shocking vulgar fare?"—Forks were not used in England till between the 16th and 17th centuries. The half-barbarous Persians now take the meat up with their fingers, just as the English did before that period. When Tom Coryate the traveller introduced from Italy the practice of eating with a fork, he got the nickname of Furcifer!

SAVAGE COURTSHIP.—The first act of courtship of a New Zealander, is to knock down his beloved with a club, and then drag her from her friends into the woods!—There is at least no hypocrisy in this mode of behaviour; and we really think it almost as becoming and creditable as first promising and vowing to cherish and protect a woman, and *then* knocking her down, sometimes even with a club, in the New Zealand style, and at others by the more civilized and circuitous, but not less efficacious way, of neglect and ill-treatment. The latter mode, as we all know, may be safely practised by "the most accomplished Gentlemen in Europe," to the entire satisfaction of many Honourable, Right Honourable, and Most Illustrious personages;—among whom, it is boldly maintained, are to be found some who are in the daily practice of "all the domestic virtues."—This, as the Dutch Showman says, is indeed "the vonder of vonders!" But then it was asserted by a well-dressed and courtly Marquis; and who but a New Zealander can possibly doubt the word of such an amiable and virtuous person, who on gala-days neither dresses out his hair with kangaroos' teeth, nor gallantly sports a dog's tail, nor,—to make himself invincible,—thrusts a six-inch bone through the cartilage of his nose?

BRIGHTON CHAPLAIN.—A Correspondent says—"The favourite Preacher at the Pavilion is Dr. Hugh Pearson, the Evangelical Minister at St. James's Chapel, who is supposed to have been recommended to this high dignity by the influence of a certain great Lady at present in high favour."

ROYAL PORTRAIT.—Miss Aikin, in her recently published and valuable "Memoirs of the Court of James the First," gives the following Portrait, from Weldon, of that arbitrary, pedantic, timid, superstitious, and cock-fighting Monarch:—"He was of a middle stature, more corpulent through his clothes than in his body, yet fat enough; his clothes ever being made large and easy, the doublets quilted for stiletto proof; his breeches in plaits and full stuffed: he was naturally of a timorous disposition, which was the reason of his quilted doublets: his eye large, ever rolling after any stranger came in his presence, insomuch as many for shame have left the room as being out of countenance: his beard was very thin; his tongue too large for his mouth, and made him drink very uncomely, as if eating his drink, which came out into the cup of each side of his mouth; his skin was as soft as taffeta sarsenet, which felt so because he never washed his hands, only rubbed his fingers' ends slightly with the wet end of a napkin. His legs were very weak, having, as some thought, some foul play in his youth, or rather before he was born, that he was not able to stand at seven years of age; that weakness made him ever leaning on other men's shoulders: his walk was ever circular."—And yet this uncouth specimen of humanity was the son of two persons peculiarly distinguished for personal beauty,—Mary Queen of Scots, and Lord Darnley. But though his actions were as unbecoming as his

appearance, no Monarch was ever more dosed with flattery by the Courtiers of his time, both spiritual and temporal; and Sir John Harrington relates the following pleasant anecdote of prelatical sycophancy:—"The Bishops came to the King about the petition of the Puritans. I was by, and heard much discourse. The King talked much in Latin, and disputed with Dr. Reynolds at Hampton: but he rather used upbraidings than argument, and told the petitioners that they wanted to strip Christ again; and bid them away with their *snivelling!* The Bishops seemed *much pleased*, and said his Majesty spoke by the power of *inspiration!* I wot not what they mean; but the Spirit was rather louled-mouthed."—"No Bishop no King," was this Monarch's maxim; which the Churchmen doubtless thought proceeded also from divine inspiration. Though in private conversation he scarcely ever opened his mouth without an oath, James was the first King of England to whom the title of "Sacred Majesty" was applied.

THE WHITE DOE.

[We are glad to see announced new and small-sized Editions of Mr. Wordsworth's Poems. The literary public will now be able to procure them, and judge for itself.]

——— Soft!—the dusky trees between,
And down the path to the open green,
Where is no living thing to be seen,—
And through yon gateway, where is found,
Beneath the arch with ivy bound,
Free entry to the church-yard ground,—
And right across the verdant sod,
Towards the very house of God,—
Comes gliding in, with lovely gleam,
Comes gliding in, serene and slow,
Soft and silent as a dream,
A solitary Doe!
White she is, as lily of June,
And beauteous as the silver moon,
When out of sight the clouds are driven,
And she is left alone in heaven.
* * * * * * * * * * * *
Her's are eyes serenely bright;
And on she moves, with step how light!
Nor spares to stoop her head, and taste
The dewy turf with flowers bestrown;—
And in this way she fares; till at last,
Beside the ridge of a grassy grave
In quietness she lays her down,
Gently, as a weary wave
Sinks, when the summer breeze hath died
Against an anchored vessel's side;—
Even so, without distress, doth she
Lie down in peace and lovingly.

WORDSWORTH.

UPON PARSON BEANES.

Old Parson Beanes hunts six days of the week,
And on the seventh he has his notes to seek:
Six days he hollows so much breath away,
That on the seventh he can nor preach nor pray.

ROBERT HERRICK.

FRIENDLY MEETING AFTER MARRIAGE.

(FROM THE MORNING CHRONICLE.)

Turpe senex miles, turpe senilis amor.—AMOR, Lib 1. Eb. ix.

* * * *

So old, you may think it a silly vagary;
But I was egg'd on, and consented to marry.

FRIEND.

Egg'd on, do you say, with the gout and so wheezy?
Well, I hope, tho' I doubt, that you'll find the *yoke* easy!

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Monday, Feb. 18.

CARTWRIGHT v. WRIGHT.

This was an action for a libel, published in a pamphlet entitled *The Book of Wonders.*

Mr. DENMAN said, he had the honour of being the advocate of one of the most respectable men in his Majesty's dominions. The defendant appeared to have been engaged in a quarrel with Mr. William Cobbett; and with a view to conduct the controversy with as much personality as possible, he published a work entitled *The Book of Wonders.* This book contained a great variety of passages highly reflecting upon the character of Mr. Cobbett. If these were real extracts from his pen, and if they did authentically state the sentiments of Mr. Cobbett, he could only say, that they exhibited a degree of unprincipled audacity, and of profligate and unfeeling depravity, such as no man had ever betrayed before. The question, however, between Mr. Wright and Mr. Cobbett, should have been conducted without dragging into the controversy one of the most honourable and zealous men who had ever manifested an interest in the public welfare. The book in question was dedicated to her late Majesty. Mr. Cobbett was there stated to have avowed himself to be a swindler, who would not pay his just debts, under the contemptible pretext that his creditors had upheld that Government of which he (Mr. Cobbett) had personally a right to complain. Mr. Cobbett was here also represented to have told the people of England, that the assassination of Mr. Perceval was a subject of universal joy, and to have spoken with something like exultation of the death of Sir Samuel Romilly, and then proceeded to detail other traits of his political sentiments, which were to be found in his publications. Having been forced to abandon his country, to take refuge in America, he was there stated to have made a project of destroying the Bank of England, by inducing persons to commit the crime of forgery, and to have the meanness to enter into the details of the manner in which these forgeries were to be carried into effect. In the course of this book, Mr. Cobbett was stated to have described "Major Cartwright's creed as the criterion of excellence."—It would seem that Mr. Cobbett had had a strong desire to be introduced to the Parliament of England, and with that view had proposed that 5000*l.* should be raised by subscriptions of twopence each, among the artizans of this country. On another occasion, he proposed that Sir F. Burdett, whom he had previously vilified, should advance the sum in question to purchase a seat for him in what, in a different part of the work, he was represented to have called "a den of corruption;" and it was in the passage containing this proposition, that Mr. Wright had thought proper to fasten the name of Major Cartwright, than whom there could not be a more decided enemy to the traffic for seats in the House of Commons, as the whole tenor of his long and honourable life had forcibly evinced. The note in which the libel against the plaintiff was contained, was as follows:—"Many well-intentioned persons have expressed their surprize, that the "Enlightener" should have been willing to accept of a seat in Corruption's Den, purchased with the bank notes of a man whose "incapacity and baseness" he had so powerfully exposed. To convince such persons that this line of conduct was strictly patriotic, we have only to assure them, that in so doing, he was walking in the footsteps of that "Venerable Veteran" whose "Creed is the Criterion of Excellence" (see No. 195), and who, in an article of that Creed, has laid it down as a maxim, that "we must, in fighting the enemy, not reject the use of the arms of even despicable and detestable men."—Mr. DENMAN, in continuation, stated, that his client had never laid down any such doctrine, and put it to the Jury to say whether they could do otherwise than feel that he had every reason to complain of being thus held up to the abhorrence of all mankind, and of being dragged from his fire-side to vindicate his character from aspersions utterly at variance with every act of his life. His object, on the present occasion, was not vindictive damages, but he thought he had a right to obtain such a verdict against Mr. Wright as would tend to prevent the recurrence of similar unfounded and gross attacks in future.

Mr. SCARLETT then submitted, that he had a right to have the whole of the passages preceding the libel also read.—The CHIEF JUSTICE agreed, and several extracts were then read from an article headed "Sir Francis Burdett," in which the opinions of Mr. Cobbett respecting that Honourable Baronet, given at different periods, were set forth; the favourable opinions being placed under the title of "hot," and those of a contrary character under the title of "cold," in the following manner:—

HOT.	COLD.
Look on this Picture!	*And on this!*
SIR FRANCIS BURDETT.	
No man doubts the integrity of Sir F. Burdett any more than he doubts of his own existence. 1816.	The word of Sir F. Burdett is not worth a straw.—1819.
Sir F. Burdett has never deviated from the path of political rectitude. Learned, eloquent, and sober, he is a most formidable foe to corruption. On his integrity, his courage, and his ability, we have all a firm re-	To reason with such a man as Burdett would be absurd. He must be combatted with weapons very different from a pen. We abhor the principles and conduct of the man: we detest and loathe him: we

liance. He has devoted his life to the liberties and happiness of his country.

Having laid his hands to the plough, Sir F. Burdett will not look back.

Sir F. Burdett is a sensible man. He has got a head on his shoulders.

Sir F. Burdett is the least conceited man I ever saw! 1816.

Sir F. Burdett is a sluggish lump: all clay: a kneaded clod.

Sir F. Burdett is a thing made up of other mens' labours and talents.

The conceit of the Baronet is intolerable. 1819.

The CHIEF JUSTICE now suggested his wish that there should be an accommodation between the parties.

Mr. SCARLETT said, that after what had passed, and Mr. Wright having distinctly shown Major Cartwright that the libel imputed to him were the precise words of Mr. Cobbett, he could not consent.

Mr. SCARLETT submitted, that Major Cartwright had entirely misconceived the object of Mr. Wright in this publication, which was not to reflect on the character of the worthy Major, but, by contrasting the opinions given by Mr. Cobbett at different periods of his life, to show how little reliance could be placed on his consistency, his honour, or his morality. To show, in fact, that there was nothing, however base, or however virtuous, that at one period or other of his singular life he had not applauded or condemned, and thus to disabuse those classes of society upon which his name, and not his character, seemed to have had such influence. The Learned Counsel was then proceeding to contend, that the words set out in the declaration were not libellous, when

The CHIEF JUSTICE, on reference to the declaration, found that although the words of the alleged libel were set forth, yet that the references to the places from whence they had been quoted were not correct—and, on this variance, the plaintiff was nonsuited.

Wednesday, Feb. 29.

WOOD v. STREET, A PROPRIETOR OF THE COURIER.

Mr. MARRYAT said, the defendant was proprietor of the Sunday newspaper called the *Guardian*, which he engaged with the plaintiff to print. As Mr. Wood could not enter on the business without considerable expence, he obtained a written agreement. By this Mr. Street bound himself to employ Mr. Wood as printer for ten months, and to pay him 25*l.* a week for printing 1000 copies, which was the regular number, and an additional sum for all copies printed over that number. Mr. Wood accordingly purchased new types, and began to perform his duty. The leading articles often were not sent till Saturday, and sometimes not till a very late hour of the night, because they were *frequently furnished by persons in high stations in the country*. Thus the printer was necessarily put to great trouble in order to ensure an early publication.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE interposed, and suggested that *the matter had better be settled out of Court.*

Mr. MARRYAT said, that he did not intend to introduce any names in the course of the cause.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said, he had no doubt that he would not. It was not with that view he made the suggestion, but because he thought that the ends of justice would be best secured by such a course.

Mr. MARRYAT, however, proceeded; but

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE again interposed, and said that as it was a question of amount of damages, it was the most proper subject for a reference.

The plaintiff was accordingly sent for. His Lordship's suggestion was adopted, and the cause referred to Mr. D. F. Jones.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.—MOST ATROCIOUS PROCEEDING.

On Thursday a young *Gentleman*, holding a situation in the Admiralty, and related to families of the highest distinction, underwent an examination on a charge of rape, alleged to have been committed under circumstances of great aggravation. —It was stated, that a short time ago the accused and his brother took lodgings in the house of a respectable elderly man for three months certain; and that they had been there but a few days, when the accused, in the absence of the greater part of the inmates of the house, followed the daughter of the landlord to a bed-room, and having taken means of a brutal kind to prevent her from crying out, he accomplished his purpose. The next morning the brothers quitted the lodgings. The violence which she experienced, and the consequent agitation, produced such an effect upon the young girl, that she was considered in some danger, and Mr. Beckett, a magistrate residing near her father's house, went there and took her deposition upon oath, and upon that information a warrant was granted. A medical man stated that the prosecutrix was too ill to be removed, and it was even extremely doubtful if she would recover. An application was made to allow the accused to go at large upon bail, but it was refused, and he remains in custody.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

At the Inquest taken at the house of the late *James Gordon, Esq.* in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, on Monday, it appeared by the evidence of Mr. Jones, that he had been occasionally subject to depression of mind, which witness attributed to a diseased function of the liver. In the last fatal instance, however, the deceased had declined, though repeatedly urged to adopt a remedy, and to this determination Mr. Jones attributed the event which followed. The Jury pronounced the verdict, "That during a temporary fit of insanity arising from some internal disease, he shot himself." Mr. Gordon had been many years in Parliament.

On Friday night, the 8th of this month, or early on Saturday morning, the vault of the late Thomas Jones, Esq. of Llantysilio-hall, Denbigh, was broken into by 7 or 8 men, with an attorney and surgeon from a neighbouring town at their head; the coffins containing the body of the deceased forced open, then taken outside, turned upside down, and the corpse tumbled upon the ground. The body having been interred on the 13th of Dec. 1820, was of course in a state of great decay. The only motive assigned for this outrage is, that a person, supposing himself interested in a will, had dreamt that one was deposited under the head of the deceased! Upon this vision, strange as it may appear, an attorney was found weak enough and wicked enough to commit the above outrage. He came prepared with a plumber, masons, blacksmith, &c. and even two females are said to have been present!

SHOCKING CATASTROPHE.—On Friday, *John Gales*, servant to John White, farmer, of Brauking Moor, met an untimely death through the insanity of his master. White has at different times exhibited symptoms of derangement, and on the evening preceding the melancholy event which we are about to describe, was strongly impressed with the idea that his house was infested by robbers. Under this impression he wandered about the house with a loaded gun the whole night, to shoot (he said) the robbers as they came in, fancying he heard and saw them at the windows. Early in the morning, the unfortunate deceased came down stairs, and proceeded to go to work, but finding the outer door fastened, he returned and went into the kitchen. White being in the passage, suddenly fired, lodging the contents of his gun in the body of the unfortunate Gales, near the hip bone. He fell, and in about two hours expired. A Coroner's Jury returned the following verdict:—"That John Gales came to his death by John White firing a gun, loaded with gunpowder and shot, whilst the said John White was in a fit of mental derangement!" White has been committed to our county gaol, to take his trial.—*Durham Advertiser.*

On Tuesday a bullock was separated from a drove in Smithfield, and hunted by upwards of 200 blackguards along West-street. The animal, to avoid his pursuers, jumped through the shop-window of Mr. Walter, boot and shoemaker, on Saffron-hill, and shattered it to pieces; it ran into the parlour, and jumped out at the back window into the yard: the family were dreadfully alarmed, but fortunately received no personal injury.

Monday night, Mrs. Towers, of Barrett's-buildings, Kent-road, was stopped near the corner of Blackman-street, Borough, by two men, one of whom pulled off her pocket, while the other snatched her shawl.—On the same night, and about an hour afterwards, an elderly gentleman was beset at the same spot, and robbed of an umbrella and his watch.

On Tuesday se'nnight, at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, near Market Weighton, the wife of a labouring man, named Seaton, put into an earthen jug about three pints of water, and as much lime as would fill a common tea-cup, to sweeten it; she then corked the jug fast up, and put it into an iron oven by the side of the fire. Some time after the jug burst with an explosion equal to that of a well-loaded blunderbuss. The oven was broken into several pieces, which were propelled in different directions. One piece, with the top bar of the fire-grate, struck a window, and drove out half of it. One of two children, a girl about two years old, received so severe a contusion on the head, that its brains were to be seen, and it expired the next morning. The other child was dreadfully scalded by the water from the jug, but is expected to recover. And, strange to relate, the mother received not the least injury! A coroner's jury sat upon the body of the deceased. *Verdict—Accidental Death.*

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.

TO-MORROW, MONDAY, FEB. 25, (4th time) LOVE in HUMBLE LIFE.

On TUESDAY, (9th time) ADELINE, the Victim of Seduction.

On THURSDAY, PIZARRO; Rolla, Mr. Kean. With (5th time) LOVE in HUMBLE LIFE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

TO-MORROW Evening, Feb. 25, will be revived, the popular Extravaganza called LIFE IN LONDON; Tom, Mr. Lewis, Jerry, Mr. Coveney, Logic, Mr. Vale. To conclude with the Burletta of ALL AT COVENTRY.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

TO-MORROW Evening, FEB. 25, and during the Week, TOM AND JERRY, or LIFE IN LONDON. After which, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST! or HARLEQUIN AND THE MAGIC ROSE.

ARGYLE ROOMS.

ON THURSDAY Evening, Feb. 28, Mr. PUTNAM will, for the first time in London, have the honour to present a selection of READINGS and RECITATIONS.

Admission, 5s.—Tickets may be had at the Royal Harmonic Institution, Lower Saloon, Argyle Rooms, Regent-street, and of Mr. Putnam, 50, Frith-street, Soho.—The Readings will commence at eight o'clock precisely.

*** Mr. Putnam gives instruction in the higher branches of English Reading.—Terms of Tuition, for Twelve Lessons, Six Guineas.

KING'S THEATRE, OPERA CONCERT ROOM, HAY-MARKET.—Mr. WALKER respectfully announces his usual COURSE of TWELVE LECTURES on Tuesdays and Thursdays at One, to commence Tuesday next.—Terms, thirteen transferable Tickets (one admitting to the Eidouranion,) One Guinea; single do. 2s. 6d.—A prospectus and particulars gratis, at Mr. Ebers', 27, Old Bond-street; Mr. Blunt's, Cornhill; and at the Office of the King's Theatre, daily.

On Wednesday and Friday next, (and every Wednesday and Friday during Lent) the Lecture on the Eidouranion, with all its late Improvements, at 7. Boxes 5s.—Pit 2s.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

Under the Management of Mr. Bochsa.

ON WEDNESDAY next, February the 27th, will be repeated in consequence of their great success, the Selections from ROSSINI'S celebrated Oratorio, IL MOSE IN EGITTO, with a GRAND MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCE.

This day is published, price 2s.

THOUGHTS on the Expediency of a Relaxation of the CORN LAWS, as the most effectual Remedy for Agricultural Distress, with Remarks on the influence of Taxes and Money on the price of Commodities. Printed for Smith and Elder, Penchurch-street.

On the 1st of March will be published, price 3s. 6d. to be continued Monthly, No. III. of

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WIELAND an AMERICAN TALE, new edit. 3 vols. 18s.

ORMOND or the SECRET WITNESS, new edition, 3 vols. 18s.

If "Wieland" or "Arthur Mervyn," were now to be for the first time ushered into the world with some such magical delusion as "by the Author of Waverley," in the title page, we doubt not that every reader would be in rapture with their heroics, and every babbling critic tendering his tributary stream of shallow admiration of the writer's powers.—New Monthly Magazine.

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MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday, at Burnham, Norfolk, the Rev. Philip Ward, M.A. to Horatia Nelson Nelson, the adopted daughter of the late Lord Nelson.

On Tuesday, at Hackney, Wm. Bond, Esq. of Stamford Hill, to Martha, only daughter of the late Thomas Draper, Esq. of Islington.

On Thursday the 21st instant, at St. George the Martyr, Queen Square, Charles Reddelien, Esq. of Lubeck, to Anna Maria, eldest daughter of John Poole, Esq. of Great Ormond Street.

DEATHS.

On Wednesday, the 22th inst., at Vauxhall-place, South Lambeth, Mrs. Elizabeth Jay, aged 70.

On the 9th instant, in Albany, Piccadilly, Rear Admiral John William Spranger.

On Tuesday, Mr. Storey, the Magistrate, who presided at the late Shadwell Office.

On Sunday, the Rev. Thos. William Shore, of Otterton, Devon, and brother to Lord Teignmouth.

On Monday, the 16th instant, at Tottenham High-cross, Simon Bragner, Esq., aged 76.

At Drogheda, Ireland, Lieut. Guy. He had recently lost his wife, and it appears he died of grief for the loss, refusing all sustenance for 21 days previously to his death.

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